성희
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설희 5

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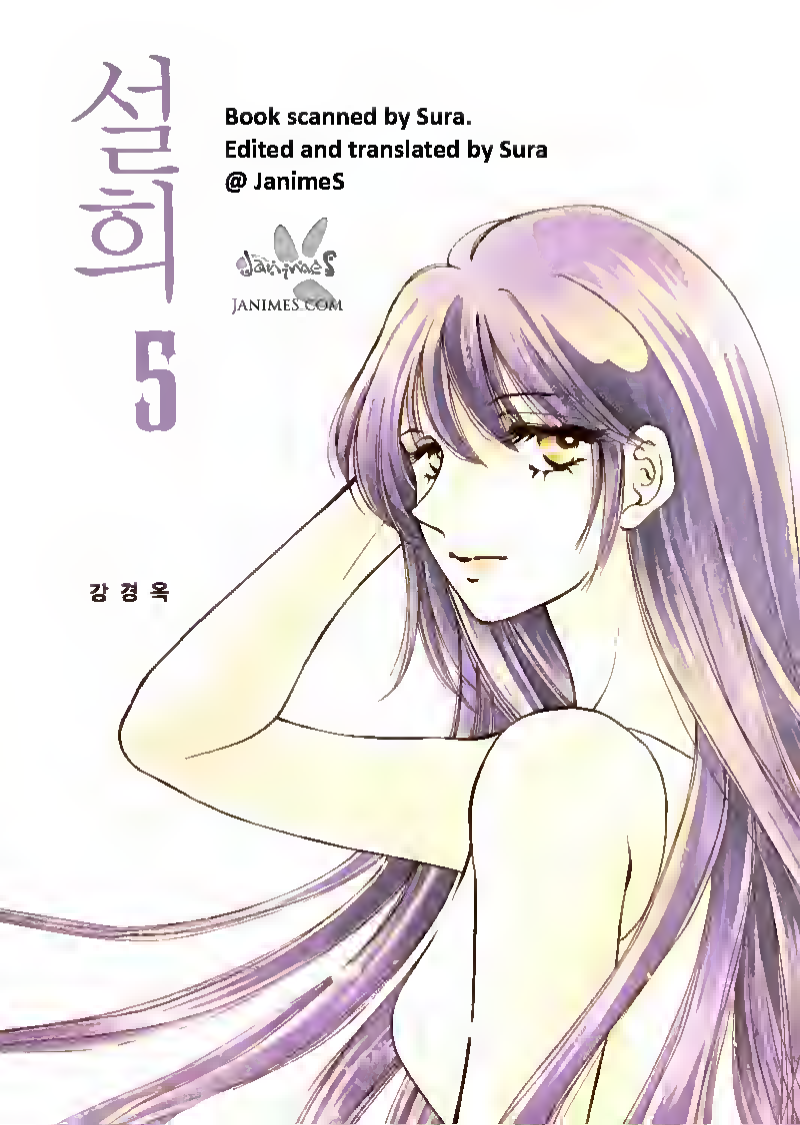
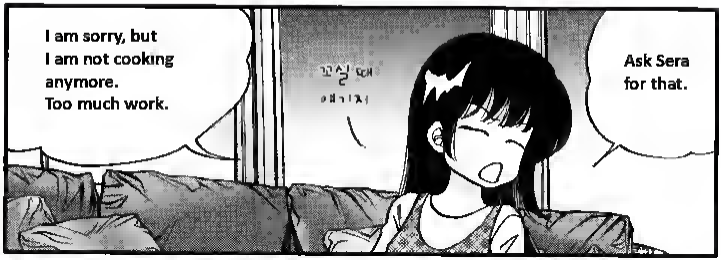


강 경 옥

사랑은 정말
세상을 구원하는 걸까?
세상에서 배운대로
말은 그렇게 했지만
난 그것을 실감해본 적은 없다

Part 5. Dead or Alive

Boy, I am stuffed ! I visited a hotel buffet.
Sera, I wannna coffee
Sure. Sure
Alone at a hotel buffet, eh ... That's fine I don't feel anything
What's with that face ? Do you want me to take you there ?
Is that how you should greet me ?
Besides, I prefer your cooking.


I am sorry, but
I am not cooking
anymore.
Too much work.
Ask Sera
for that.

It was you who
called me here.
Shouldn't I get
a proper treatment ?
What happened
to our promise ?

That was if you
turned out to be
connected to my
former life.
You came here
because I no longer
needed to go to
Japan for you.

So, you've concluded that I am not the one you are looking for ?
For now, Sei is a lot closer for the candidate.
So, I have no reason to die with you.
If you want to go back, fine, so be it. And if you want to stay, fine, so be it.

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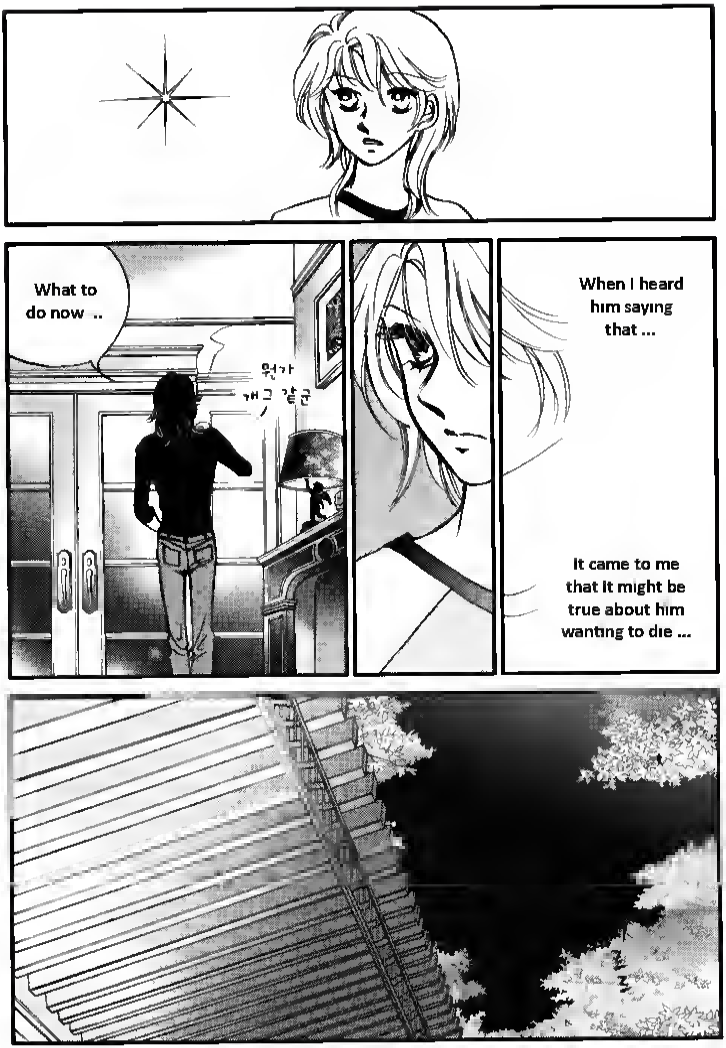
Thank you~
You are really pissing me off !
If you want me to go, just say so !
Stay until you feel it's enough. That's what I am saying.

It's true that it was me who started all this for you about former life and stuff.
So, I will let you stay as long as you want.
Hmph, you haven't changed one bit.
Let me see the guy who you claim to be the one.
You can see him after Sera set me up a date with him.
Sera, how did it go ?
Uh ..., I will make a call.

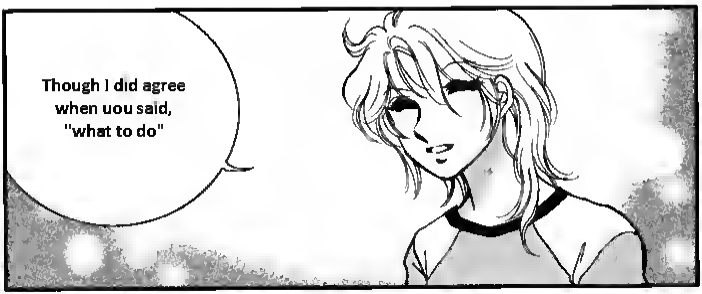
Boy, I am stuffed. I am going to sleep.
He looks ... very disappointed.
Would you like coffee ?
I knew she was like that ... but still ...
I should have just made my move.

Eh ?!
All the efforts gone wasted !
She promised to sleep with me once she was sure I was the one !
That's called rape, you know !
Please I just want some normal conversations ...
I do know. I am just pissed. That's all.
I've never went out with a girl for 5 months and never shared a bed.

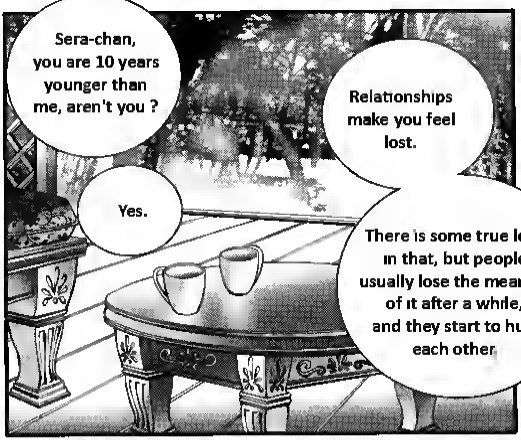
먼 세상
I heard Japan is more open.
But still..
Well..., I can see his point ... I mean ...
Well, without doing it, it was fun, so that's why I hung around.
Where is my lighter ?
Grr, dang it. I just want to love like fire and die like one.


What to do now ..
When I heard him saying that ...
It came to me that it might be true about him wanting to die ...

... Are you going back to Japan now ?
I thought that's what you wanted.
... I am sorry. I didn't mean that.
I will miss you. That's for sure.
To be honest, I feel like I am looking at an alien world.
I've never had a relationship.
And of course, I've never felt like ending life with someone.


Though I did agree
when uou said,
"what to do"

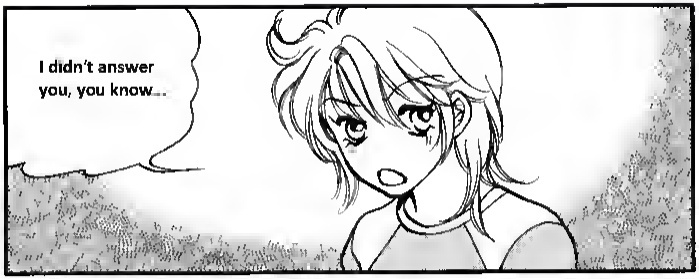
You may feel disappointed
and angry, but to me,
I am kind of envious.


Sera-chan,
you are 10 years
younger than
me, aren't you ?
Yes.
Relationships
make you feel
lost.
There is some true love
in that, but people
usually lose the meaning
of it after a while,
and they start to hurt
each other.

You know what. How relationship goes is depended a lot on personalities.
Some will never realize
Well, since you've never been in a relationship, I can tell that you will go through some hard times.
Don't make fun of me.
And most of all, I don't want to hear that from you.
So, what do you think of me ?
Sera-chan ?

I can help you gain experience.
Not a bad deal, I think
You know, just while I am in Korea
Why don't we get into a relationship ?
Eh - ?!

Are you joking ?
Nevermind if you don't like the idea
No, I don't mean I dislike the idea.
I mean ..., are you serious ?
Yeah, I am serious.
See ? This is what I am talking about. I can tell that you've never been in a relationship. I said while I am in Korea.
So, let me set some rules.
First of all, do not get serious.


I didn't answer you, you know...

Sure, you can answer me later.
Good, it's good not to be so easy.

My pride was hurt a little.
Pride
I was going to talk him back and ask him why, but then ... I wondered if I really needed a reason ...

Hilton
Grand Hilton
Seoul
Ma'am, what will tomorrow's schedule be like ?
My nurse ?
She will arrive here by plane tomorrow afternoon.

Is that so ?
I have a place to go once she gets here.
You are free until then. You can take a break
Are you going to need a translator tomorrow ?
Hmm ...
I am going to meet this "Sera" person tomorrow.

They are really pushing us through full 12 hour training everyday
I can't dedicated a day to you.
You made a promise though, so make it happen.
I thought she was your daughter ?
Come on, make some time for your daughter.
Hey, how would I even know that it was even really about my former life ?
Before the end of October, I will buy you a meal. That's it.
I have to hang up. I gotta go.

Jerk !
.....
Thousand Mile

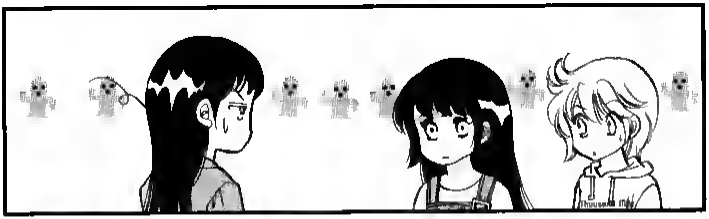
Daughter ... ?
So ..., he really did have a dream.

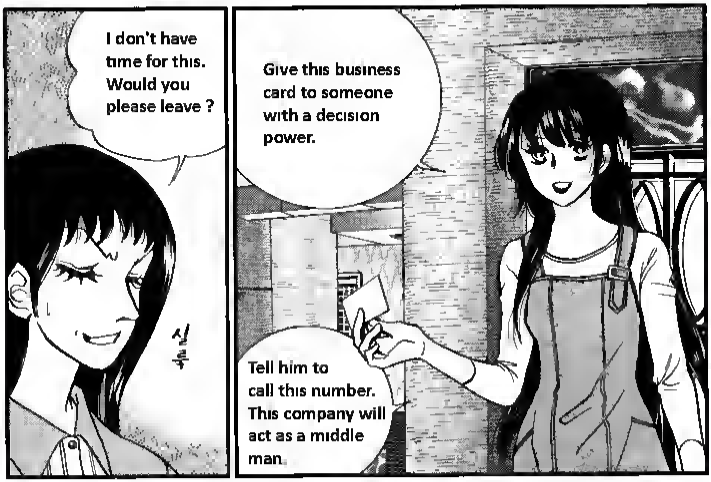
Seol Hui ...

How long until he makes a debut ?
By this year's X-mas, so he wasn't lying about being busy.
Thousand Mile
Let's go to his agency and bring him out.
What ?

Well, I guess this wouldn't hurt ...
Hello, we don't have an audition today.
We will be sending out info sheet later.
Actually, we are here to see the CEO.
What?
He is a busy man.
Registration for an audition will begin next month.

I am not here about auditions. I am here for investments.




I don't have time for this. Would you please leave ?
실룩
Give this business card to someone with a decision power.
Tell him to call this number. This company will act as a middle man.

I am sure you have someone who can speak English here.
Tell them that it is regarding Alisa Benders.
P, please wait here. I will talk to the chairman.
Investments ? What are you talking about ?!
I told you about starting an agency right ? Well, instead of starting one, I am investing in one.

What ?
A girl named Alisa ?
... This is a major investment firm.
Mr Kim.
Yes.
You can speak English, can't you ? I want you to call and find out.
R R R R R R
Hello ?
Hello, this is Planet entertainment in Korea.
Yes ?
There is someone named Alisa Benders who would like to discuss investments.
I just would like a confirmation on her identity.

Miss Benders ?
Yes, I can confirm her association with us. If she wants to make an investment, that can be done right away.
Is it urgent ?
No, no, we called you just for confirmation today. We will call you back shortly.
Sir, this is real.
Bring her in.
Yes ...

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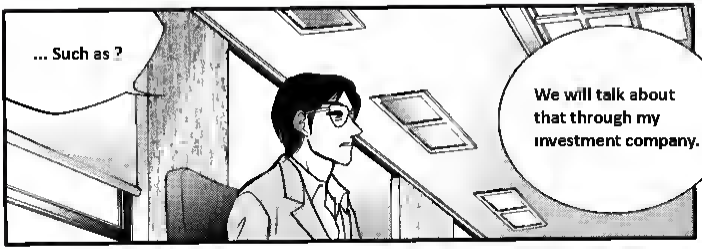
Hello.
Hello.
Seriously ?
This young girl ?
Don't tell me that she wants
to invest in herself ?
How did you find
our company ?
Ah, her friend
is going to debut
soon. He is Sei.
I am sure you
know.

Sei's friend ?
Yes, he is the reason I want to make an investment.
Ah, so you are interested in "One Kiss" group.
No, my interest is on Lee Sei only.
If you'd like my investment, I'd like to make few conditions.

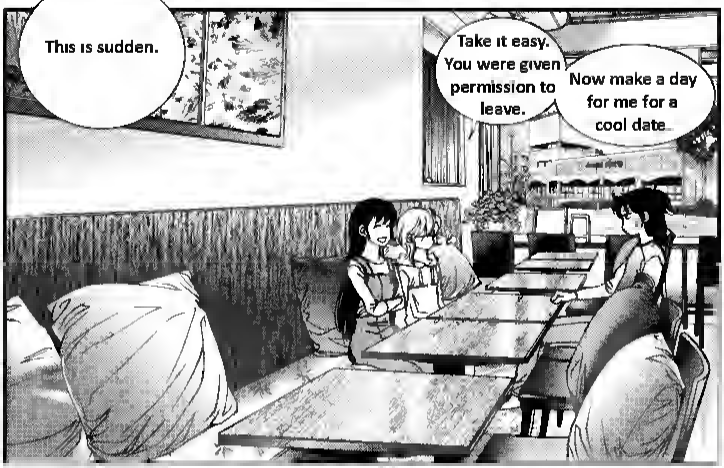

... Such as ?
We will talk about that through my investment company.

Actually, I came to see him today.
Can I take him out for a talk ?

Be my guest. You must be close to him since you are making such a big commitment.

Thank you. Call me once you hear from my investment company.

Talk about smooth talk...
I don't think she's just an innocent rich girl ...

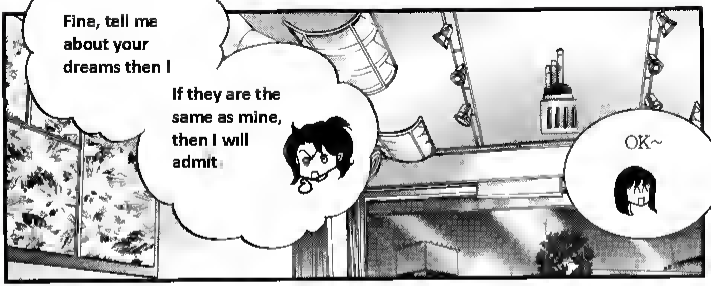

This is sudden.
Take it easy. You were given permission to leave.
Now make a day for me for a cool date

I am busy. I told you.

Then if you are no longer busy, that will be fine ?

Sure, but as I said, I am busy.
Ok, that's it for now. Now, why didn't you tell me that I showed up as your daughter in your dream ?
Thousand mile

He didn't plan to tell her at all ?
How would I even know that it was about my former life ?
That's why you need to tell me.
What did I tell you in your dream ?


Fine, tell me about your dreams then !
If they are the same as mine, then I will admit
OK~

It's raining.
I am wearing doringi and walking toward a hut.

*Dorongi ?
*Straw raincoat, an old vocabulary used in Korea. Probably used during 1800 ~ 1960.

An old woman comes out and asks me who I am.
I answer that I am daughter

" I am his ... "

I enter the hut and say to an old man in his bed.
I've finally found you, father.

D, don't mind me ! It's just a text message for me !
P, please continue !
Ah-Young ? What a timing.
Does she have an antenna or something ? She calls me whenever I am with Sei.
Let's ignore her for now.
세라야 뭐해?
아영
.... Right
Right ?
Why did you act like we were lovers in our former life ?

I told you that we might have not been on good terms in our former life.
Anyway, thanks for the confirmation.
You are not going to demand me to act like your father now, are you ?
No way ~
Let's just open up a little bit for each other, Sei.

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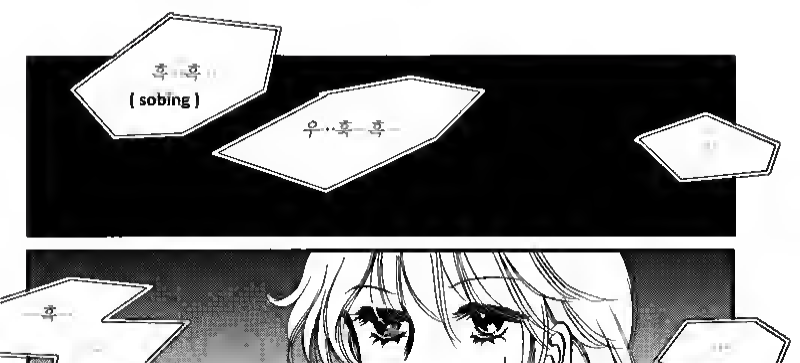
I just want you to dream more and remember more.
So that you can remember what you did.
.... What he did ?
Sorry, I will answer this outside. Don't mind me.
From Ah-Young
Ah, crap !
OK

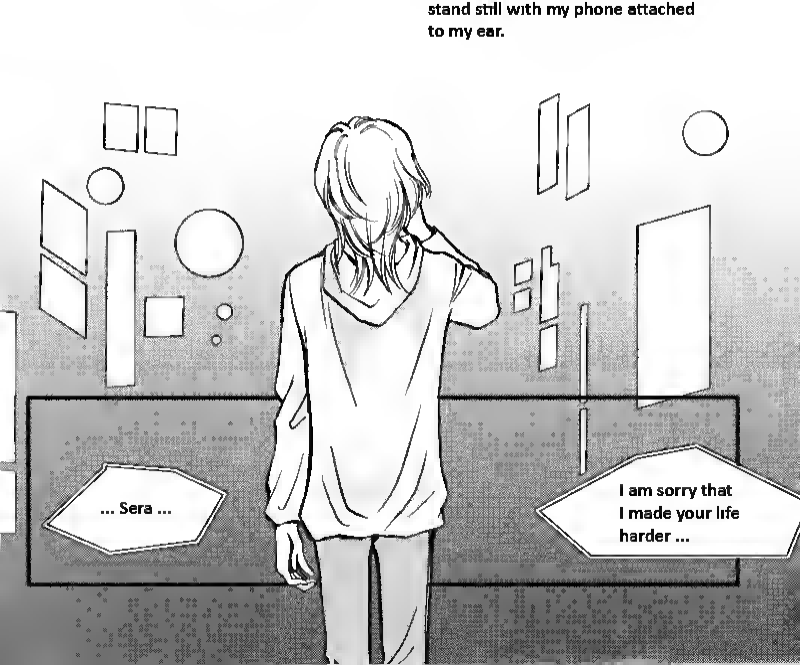
Hello, Ah-Young. Yeah, I am near where I work part time.
Huh ? No, I don't work today.
No..., I am with Seol Hui
What ?
But you don't even know her.
No, that's ...
I am with Sei right now.
Grrr, this is enough !
I've had enough !

I set up a meeting for them for a date !
I said it !
Yes, I lied, so what ?!
Am I supposed to report every thing to you ?!
Thousand Mi
Is she trying to get closer to Sei
or
Is she trying to make my life harder ?
THAT'S ENOUGH ! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU ! NO WONDER SEI WANTS TO DO NOTHING WITH YOU !
우아아아앙
(Crying)



I ...

After making her cry, I couldn't hang up. All I could do was just stand still with my phone attached to my ear.

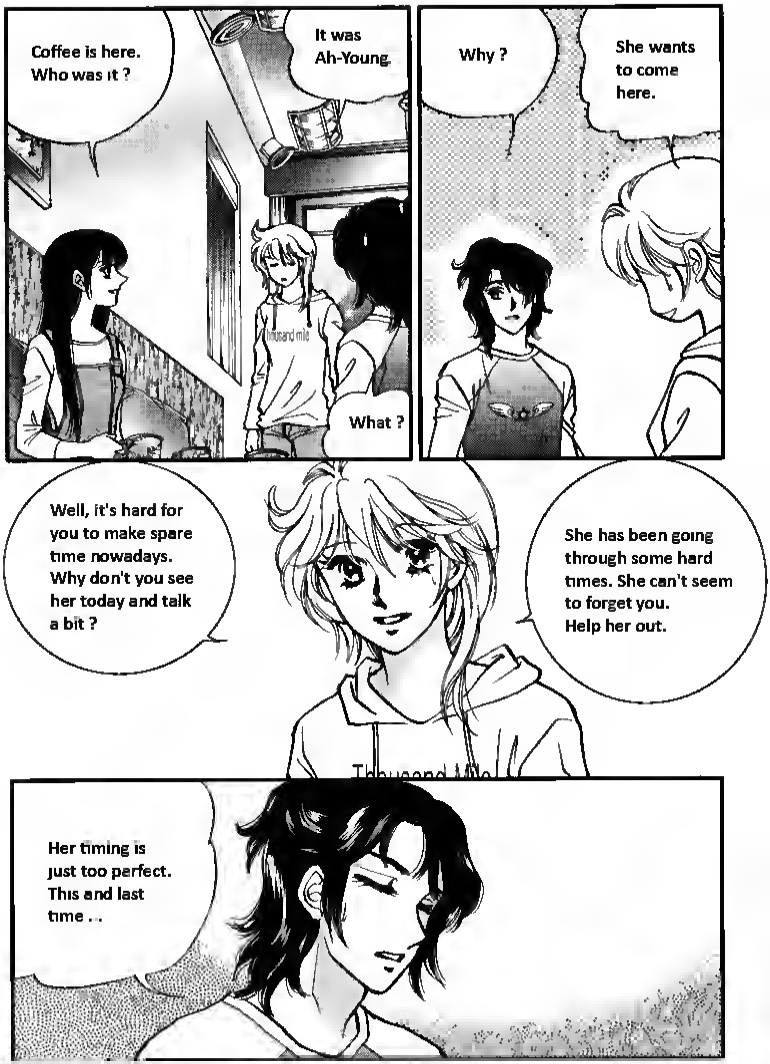


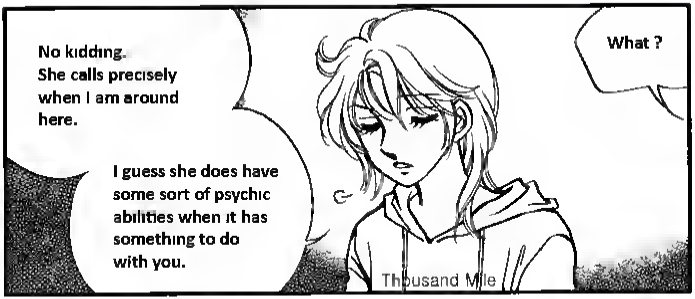
No...,
I went over the
line.

... I am always
like this when
Sei is involved ...
It hurt me to hear
from you that you
were with him ...
He doesn't even
let me him see him ...
Yet, you can see him ...

I wanted to
say no but -

I will call you
back.


Coffee is here. Who was it ?
It was Ah-Young.
What ?
Why ?
She wants to come here.
Well, it's hard for you to make spare time nowadays. Why don't you see her today and talk a bit ?
She has been going through some hard times. She can't seem to forget you. Help her out.
Her timing is just too perfect. This and last time . . .


No kidding.
She calls precisely when I am around here.
I guess she does have some sort of psychic abilities when it has something to do with you.
What ?
Thousand Mile

Yeah ...,
they were talking
some weird past
and now we are talking
about present ....

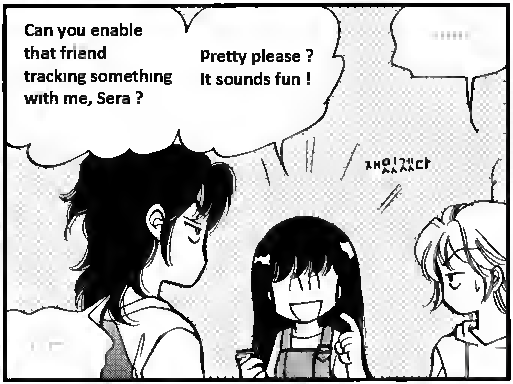
It's .... somehow ...
surreal ...

Have you enabled friend tracking with Ah-Young ?
What ? No.
But see, it's enabled.
What's friend tracking ?
WHAT ?! THAT MEANS SHE'S BEEN MONITORING MY LOCATION AND HAS BEEN CALLING ME WHENEVER I AM AROUND HERE !
THAT'S SOMETHING ONLY A STALKER WOULD DO !

When did she do this without my knowledge ?
Did you go to washroom while leaving your cell when you were with her ?
Few times ... I guess.
Still ... No way ... No way ! I mean ...
She's acting like a stalker now.
How did you figure this ?
I knew she was persistent about Sei, but I didn't think she'd sink this far.
It's scary ...
Was this why they broke up ?

Are you still going to call her ?
No way.
I don't think I can just let it go when I see her face. I will talk to her in private later.

Good idea.


Can you enable that friend tracking something with me, Sera ?
Pretty please ? It sounds fun !

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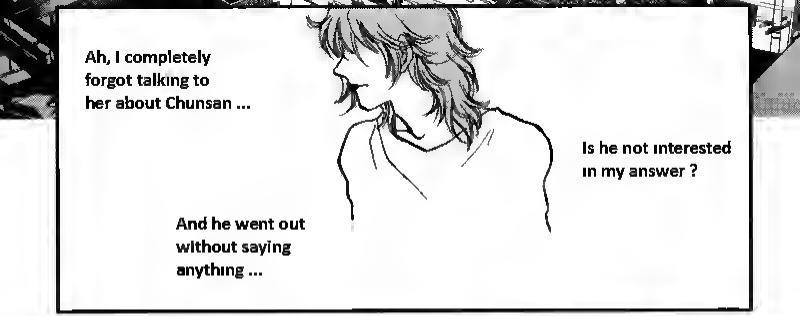
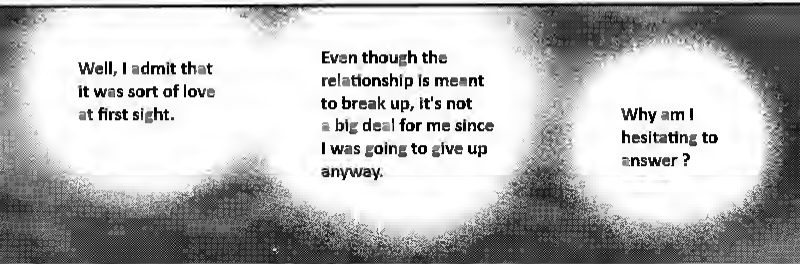
See you soon, Sei.
Bye.
Hard to see you soon.
They let me go today for some weird reason though.
Damn, I want to drive that car.
Take care.
Thousand Mile
32 calls, 5 texts. all from her.
What an interesting personality.
Scary
You find this funnier ?!
Yes, because it's not my business.
Well, true that.
Though for me, I am getting worried about her seriously.
Thousand Mile

Obviously.
Rather than some non-sense former life stuff stories
You are right that something like that should make you worried more.
B, but complexity of problems is heavier for you.
Let's go.
Thousand Mile

It's strange to see her behave realistically ...
Maybe even she knows that what she is doing is surreal.
Maybe, even so she wants t go for it ...


Ah, I completely forgot talking to her about Chunsan ...
Is he not interested in my answer ?
And he went out without saying anything ...


Well, I admit that it was sort of love at first sight.
Even though the relationship is meant to break up, it's not a big deal for me since I was going to give up anyway.
Why am I hesitating to answer ?

The event with Chunsan.

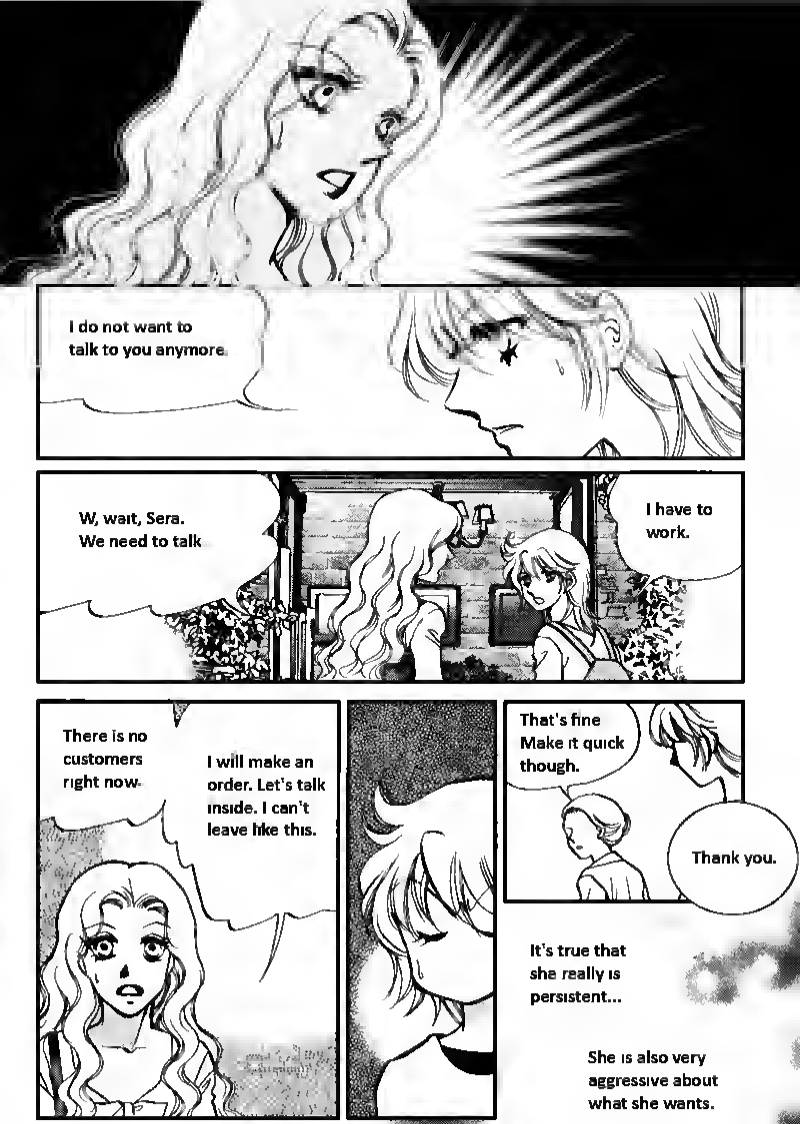
The event with Ah-Young.

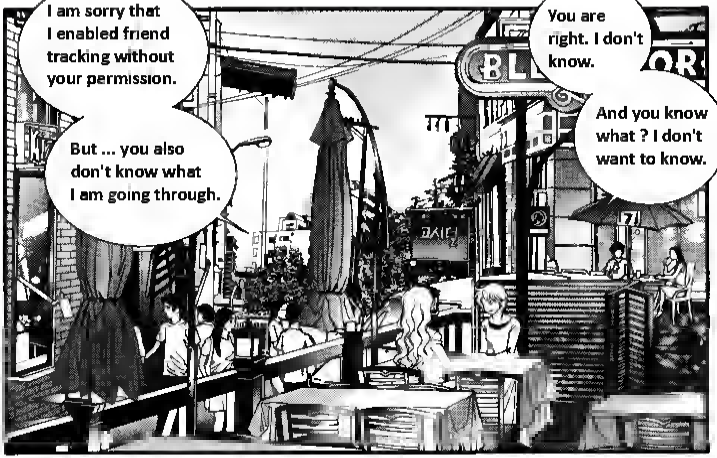
life story with Sei Hui.

reality my
simply too

with my life workloads
to think that
going to
turn my life down.

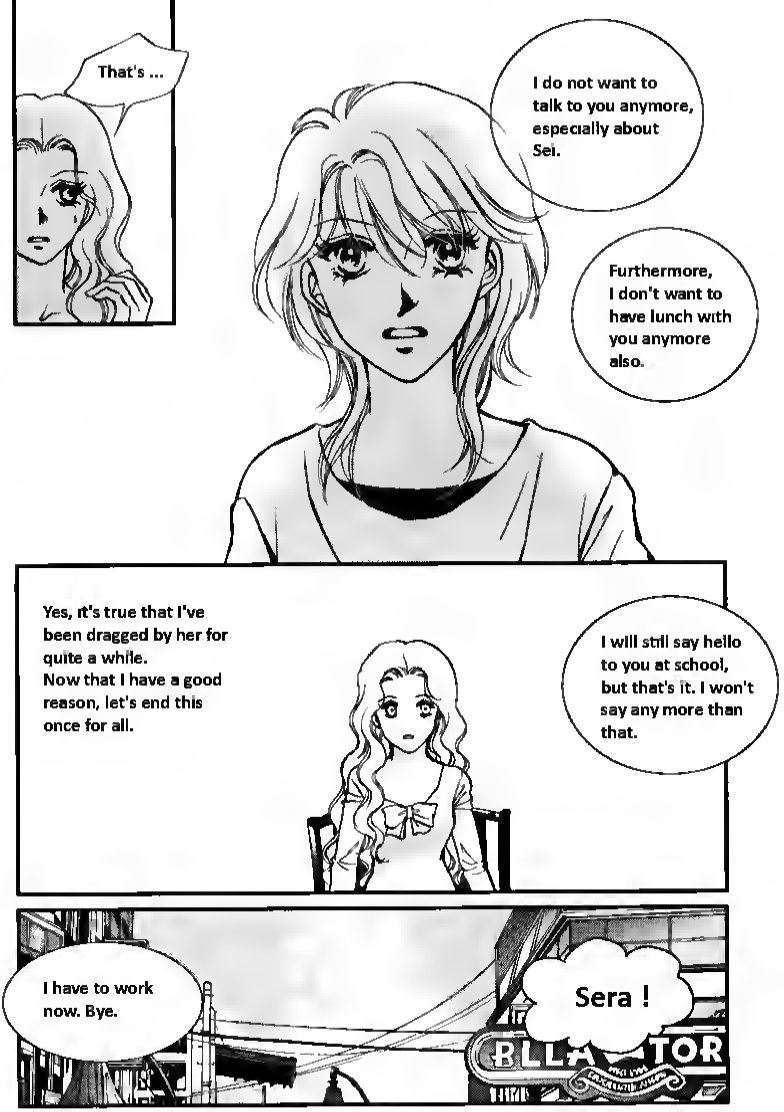
Sera, why didn't you answer my calls ?!
You promised to call me back !
Today is Saturday, so I couldn't see you at school.
How could you do this for me ?!
You had to make me come to where you work !
Did something happen with Sei ?
Can't you guess ? Didn't you notice that the tracking was disabled ?


I do not want to talk to you anymore.
W, wait, Sera. We need to talk
I have to work.
There is no customers right now.
I will make an order. Let's talk inside. I can't leave like this.
That's fine Make it quick though.
Thank you.
It's true that she really is persistent...
She is also very aggressive about what she wants.


I am sorry that I enabled friend tracking without your permission.
But ... you also don't know what I am going through.
You are right. I don't know.
And you know what ? I don't want to know.

Do you have any idea at all how this made me feel ?
You've been using me just to be able to see Sei.

That is not true !
You may feel so, but that is absoutely not true !
How are you going to explain that you enabled friend tracking without letting me know then ?

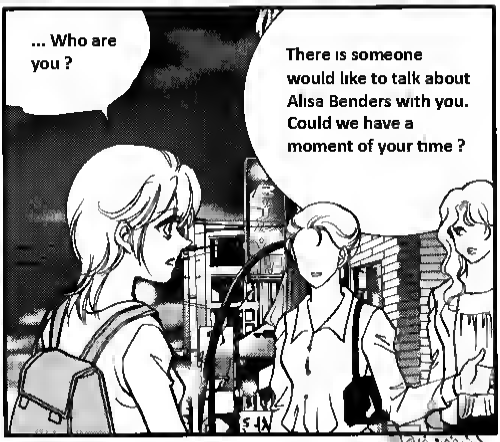

That's ...
I do not want to talk to you anymore, especially about Sei.
Furthermore, I don't want to have lunch with you anymore also.
Yes, it's true that I've been dragged by her for quite a while.
Now that I have a good reason, let's end this once for all.
I will still say hello to you at school, but that's it. I won't say any more than that.
I have to work now. Bye.
Sera !

Please don't do this to me !
I know I shouldn't have done that, but when it comes to Sei, I just can't control myself !
I am tired of myself also !
You'd know how I feel when you love someone.
Can't you understand me ?
Don't drag me into your own love affair.
You are a grown up. Handle it on your own.
Just because one's in love with someone else, that does not entitle them to do anything.
This relationship was wrong to begin with.

Thanks.
See you
tomorrow.

Um, Miss Lee ?
You are Lee Sera,
aren't you ?

Eh ... ?
I know this is sudden,
but could we talk to
you for a moment ?


... Who are
you ?
There is someone
would like to talk about
Alisa Benders with you.
Could we have a
moment of your time ?

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Alisa Benders ?
Seol Hui's
English name...
So, you've been
with her for 4
months now.

... Yes, but shouldn't she tell me who she is ?
Her name is Maria Clore. She was a very close friend of Miss Bender's father.
She has been wanting to meet Miss Benders but she lost contact with her. You just need to tell her that she wants to meet her in person.
i can give you her number right now
She is wondering if you can call her right now.
... That's not hard to do.
Give me a sec.

R R R
Seol Hui, no, I am still outside.
Well, I am with a friend of your father who'd like to see you.
.... Who ?
She says she was close to your father.
Do you want to talk to her ?
Wait -
Excuse me—
Ah -

Hi, Alisa
Who ... ?
My name is Marie ... You remmeber, don't you ?
I was saddened that you refused to see me in America.
I want to meet you. Pick a place. I will be there.
Mmm, sorry, but I don't wanna see you.

Unless you want me to tell this girl what you really are, I hope you won't disappear on me again.
.... ?
Why is she looking at me ?

... Fine.
Come to my house at 2 PM tomorrow. I am sure you know where it is already
OK.

Thanks for this. She want to take you home.
No, that's fine.
Then take care, miss.
Yes.
Who were those people ?
And she was talking in French, so i couldn't understand at all.

1개 메시지
설희야 내가
실수한거
아니지
Seol Hui, I didn't make a mistake... did I ?
메뉴 확인 닫기
...
띠리리리
1개 메시지
아니야
버스타고
올거야?
No, are you taking bus ?
메뉴 확인 닫기
피피파
Yes, I am going to.
I think I am feeling very stable lately.
Well, despite of some events relating Chunsan and few others
My life with Seol Hui has been considerably better than living alone so far

Sometimes ...,
I feel more secure
than being with my
family ...
How should I
explain this feeling ...
But this will only
last for a year ...
After a year,
she will leave Korea.
And she will become
a stranger like the
old woman I met today.

Family
Ah ?
Seol Hui ?
Hey, Sera.
You were waiting for me ?
That's new.
What's up ?
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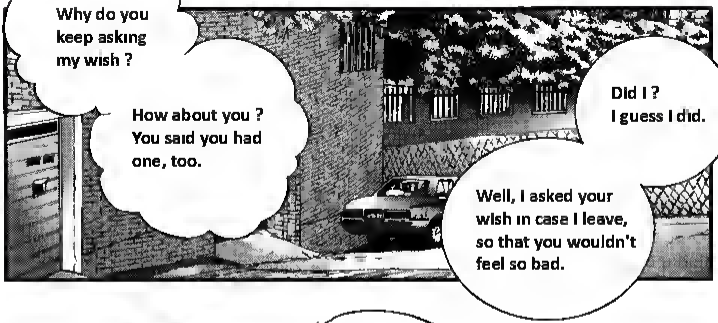
I felt like taking a walk.
Let's walk to home.
You don't have your car with you ?
It's 25 minutes of walk.
Who was she ?
She was speaking French. Do you speak that, too ?
She is an old friend of my father. That's all.
And French is nothing. Hmph, you know my awesome talent, don't you ?
Sure, sure.

To be honest, I can't speak French very well.
Yeah, I have to admit that her Korena is nearly perfect.
I didn't notice before, but there is a private temple here.
I was hearing some sort of small waterfall, so I climbed over a fence. It was some kind of temple.
You what ?!
Don't do that !
I was taking a peek. That's all.
Don't you find it strange that someone would keep a small waterfall in middle of city ?

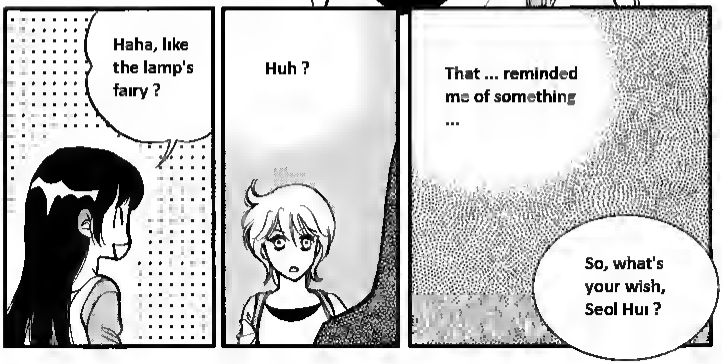
Ahah ...
Yes, this sort of behavior is what I like about her.
If I knew earlier, I would have played there during summer.
She'd do things I'd never imagine.
Are you going to leave Korea after 1 year..., no, 9 months ?
That can change if Sei remembers his past life.
I will make him remember !
Oh, please.

Why are you suddenly being attached to me ?
Eh, well ...
Some foreign woman was looking for you.
I just felt like you'd leave one day suddenly.
And I had forgotten for a while, but you've inherited a lot of wealth and know Marcus Hunt well.
You know to a completely different world.

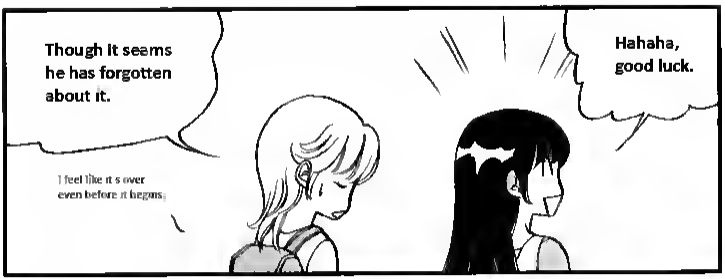
Hmm ...
What is your wish now ?
What ?
Wasn't your last wish was to make you fall in love ? Wasn't it successful ?
O, of course not !
It hasn't even begun !
You asked me to make you fall in love.
You didn't ask me to complete your love. That'd be your job.
Nothing is free !
That's ... true ... Perhaps, I should have asked her that instead ... ?
That – sounds just wrong though.

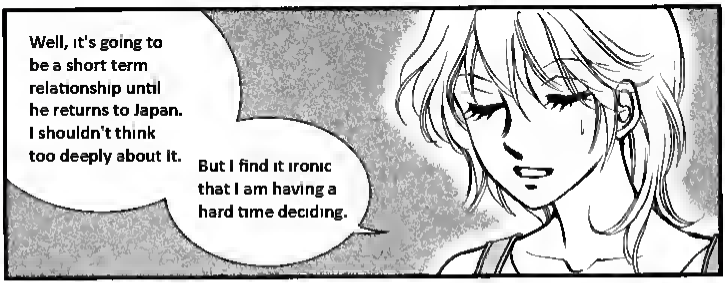

Why do you keep asking my wish ?
How about you ? You said you had one, too.
Did I ? I guess I did.
Well, I asked your wish in case I leave, so that you wouldn't feel so bad.

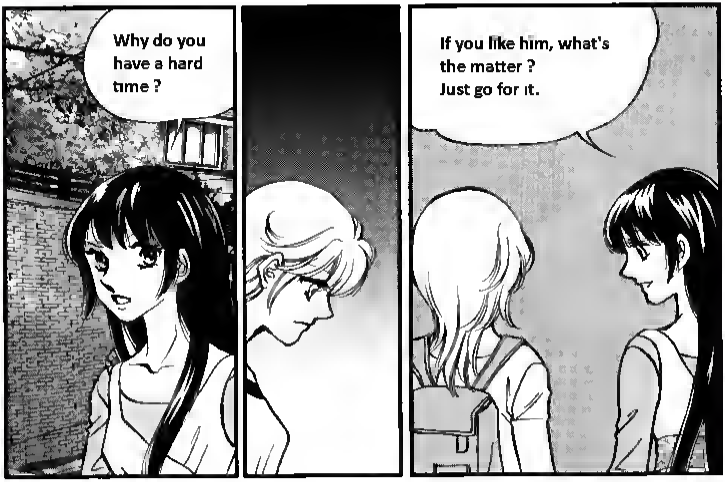
So, you were securing a good-bye gift ? I don't need something like that.
All this talking makes me feel like you've come to see me just to grant my wishes.


Haha, like the lamp's fairy ?
Huh ?
That ... reminded me of something ...
So, what's your wish, Seol Hui ?

It's not something you can make it happen. I will tell you later.
Anyway, I saw Arashi sleeping at home.
Any progress at all between you two?
Ah, that. I am supposed to give him an answer soon.


Though it seems he has forgotten about it.
I feel like it's over even before it begins.
Hahaha, good luck.


Well, it's going to be a short term relationship until he returns to Japan. I shouldn't think too deeply about it.
But I find it ironic that I am having a hard time deciding.


Why do you have a hard time ?
If you like him, what's the matter ? Just go for it.

Yeah, that's true, but ...
I ...
I will be really serious about him.
He won't be though since he plans to leave anyway.

Yes..., that was exactly what I was afraid of.

I cannot have him anyway ...

So, I didn't want to get hurt by becoming serious...

So, you worry getting beaten even before you are being beaten.

But people do not want to get hurt, so it's alright.

And even though you said that, I am pretty sure you will say yes to him.

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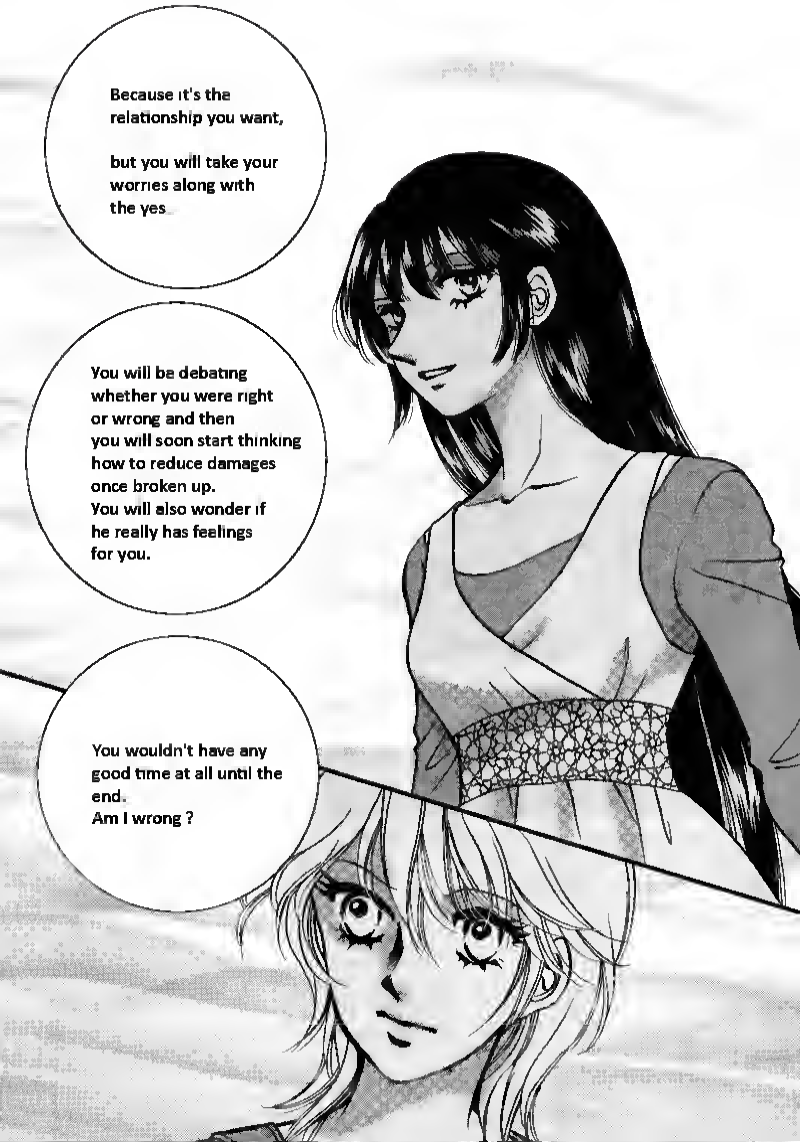

Because it's the relationship you want,
but you will take your worries along with the yes.
You will be debating whether you were right or wrong and then you will soon start thinking how to reduce damages once broken up.
You will also wonder if he really has feelings for you.
You wouldn't have any good time at all until the end.
Am I wrong ?

What she said ...
Struck me hard.
But she wasn't wrong.
And it even made me to think that it wasn't just about my take on love but everything I do.

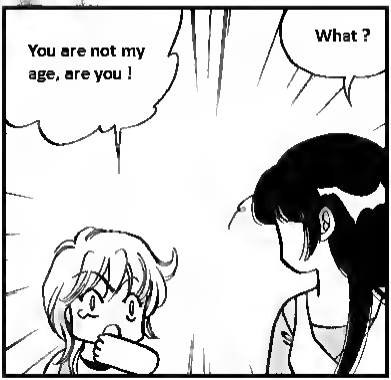
Like ... How I just observe Seol Hui and Chunsan from a distance and do nothing ...
Can I ...
Cry ... ?
Don't ask me something like that.
Do whatever you want.

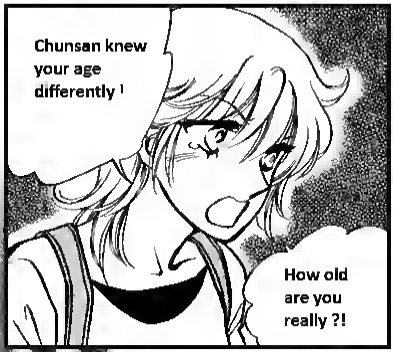
Damn it !

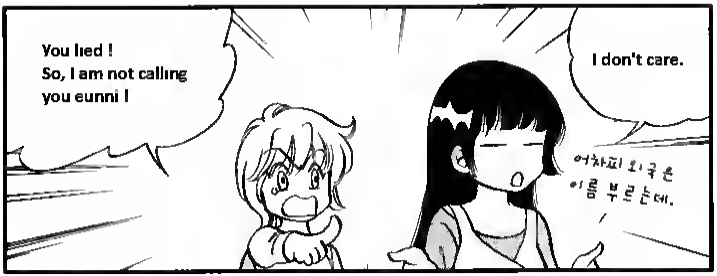
Damn it !

Damn it !

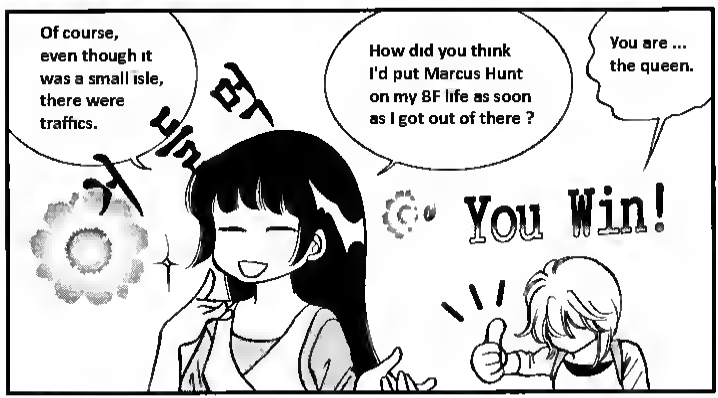
I couldn't even talk her back, so I simply cried.





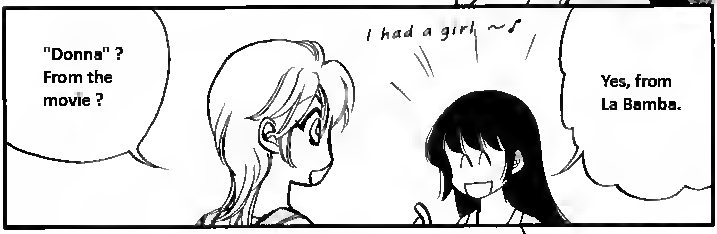

You lied !
So, I am not calling you eunni !
I don't care.
어차피 친구은 이름 부른단데.

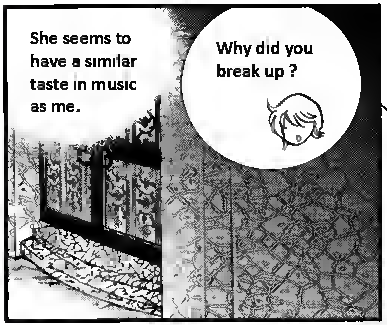
Geez, you said you lived in a small isle for your whole life, so I figured you wouldn't know about the world much.
But it seems you know much more than I do ! And language also !
Have you had relationships even ?


Of course, even though it was a small isle, there were traffics.
How did you think I'd put Marcus Hunt on my BF life as soon as I got out of there ?
You are ... the queen.
You Win!

How was your last boyfriend like ?

A good man. He treated me like a real lady.
He used to sing "Donna" for me often since it was my favorite song.


"Donna" ? From the movie ?
I had a girl ~♪
Yes, from La Bamba.


She seems to have a similar taste in music as me.
Why did you break up ?

He found another girl.

Why did he give up on you ?! I mean why would he ?!
Oh, thank you.
Well, it wasn't as bad as you think It is. The breakup set me free to concentrate on this.
... I guess you didn't like him very much.
Actually, I did like him very much. It was just that I didn't love him enough to stop him.
You see ...

I am very glad to have met Sei.
I am also glad to have met you also.
I, I am happy to have met you, too !
Obviously.
Let's go home.

Yes, this is ...

why I've been feeling secured.

I feel it from her.

Though I wondered why she was acting a little strange, but it didn't bother my high mood on that night.

Wake up now.
Ugh...
What now ...
You dumped me. What's this morning call for ?
I have a guest coming today. Get out.
Oh, a guest who I shouldn't see.
I don't wanna leave
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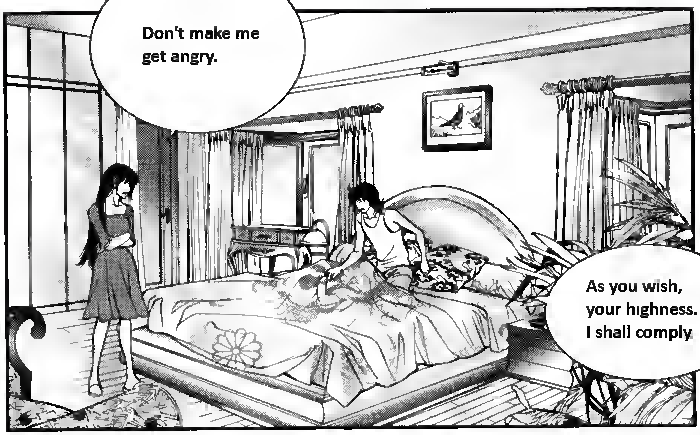
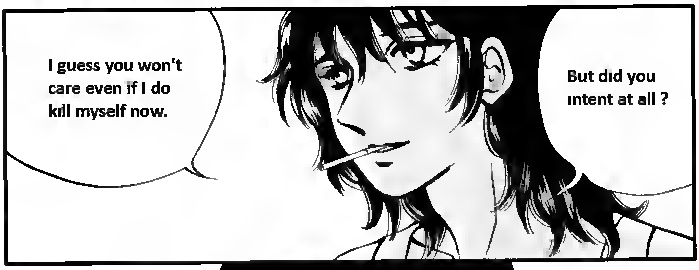
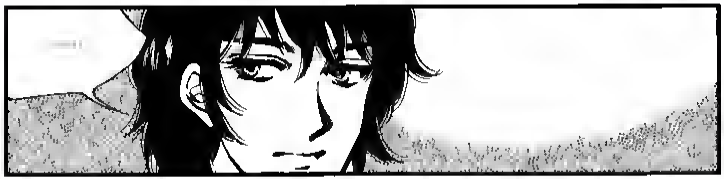
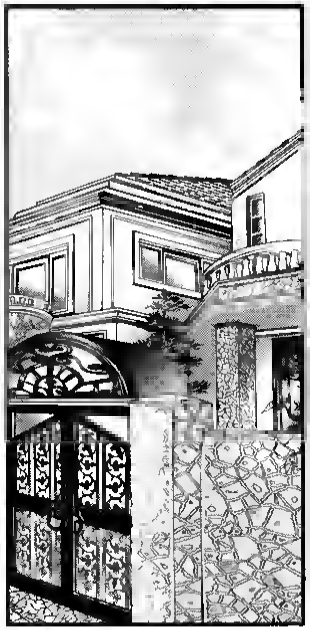

Don't make me get angry.
As you wish, your highness. I shall comply.

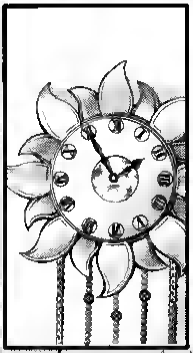

I guess you won't care even if I do kill myself now.
But did you intent at all ?

I keep my words. You can count me on that.
I will say I was a little disappointed that you weren't the one.

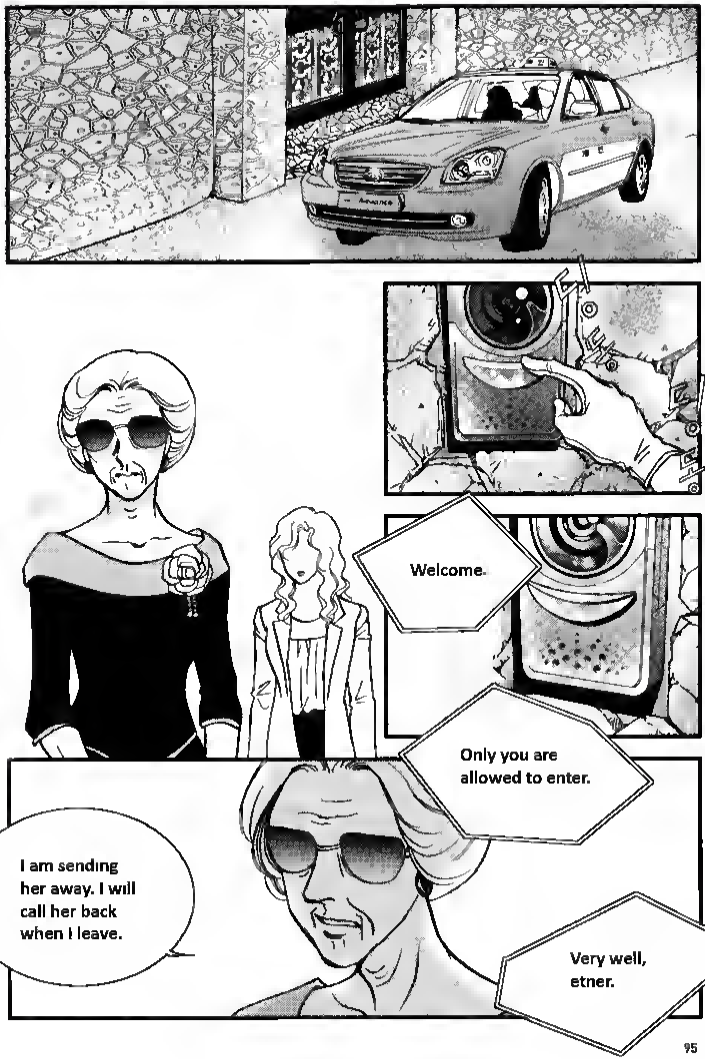
Where is Sera ?
Left to work.

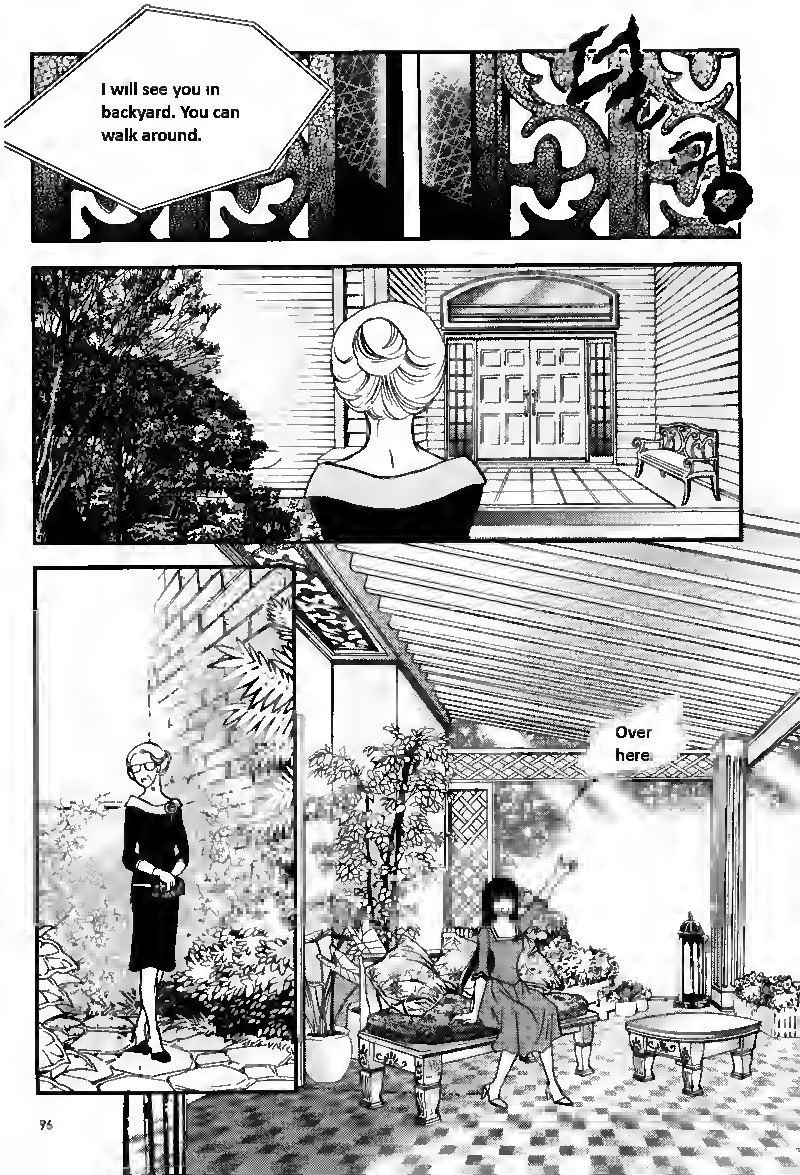






마아


Welcome.
Only you are allowed to enter.
I am sending her away. I will call her back when I leave.
Very well, etner.


I will see you in backyard. You can walk around.
Over here.

Hello, Donna ...

It's been really long time.
I can hardly recognize
you.

I am not sure whether that's tears of joy or something else.
It's been almost 50 years, right ? How have you been ?
What do you want from me after all these years ?

Well ...
I expected this but ...
It certainly feels vastly different to see you now ...
You were older than Joel.
*Joel Benders
How old are you now ?
I am 86... now.
So much time has passed ...
Yet you remain completely unchanged ...

What do you went from me now ?
Did you just went to see me ?
Once ... more ...

Please I ... would like your blood once more ...
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What if you survive ?
Do you really want to live few extra hundreds of years with that appearance ?
Do you like this world that much ?
I have ... cancer ...
I have .. few months at most ...

I don't mean that I linger on my life.
I just wanted to take back my lost chance.
When Joel told me that you left, I didn't believe him.
But I didn't have the courage to find you.
And time passed.

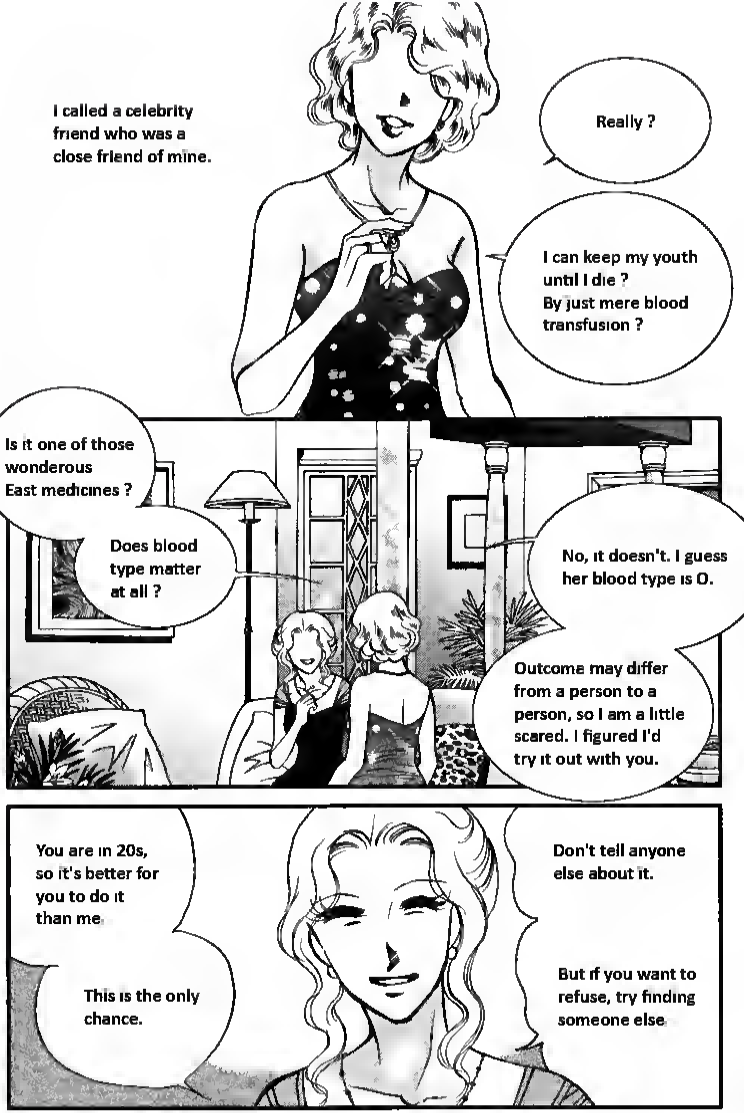
As I aged
And many events happened,
And botox no longer did anything to my aging skin -
And when my doctor told me that I had only few months,
I recalled you all the time.
If I accepted your blood transfusion offer ...
I've always wondered what might have happened.
I've always wondered for all the years.

So, now that you have nothing more to lose, you want to try.
Yes, not a bad idea since the chance of your survival is extremely low.
I feel like granting your death wish.
However, I have no reason to accept your death wish.
I decline.
I will give you all my wealth.
... I don't need any more money, you know.

I gave you a chance when you were 35 years old.
But you used up your chance on someone else
Have you forgotten ?

I promised, so you will have it
I must inform you that there has been only one successful case though
Still, you have a small chance since blood transfusion is available now. Those who drank my blood all faced horrible death.
It was middle of winter.
And your voice was colder than winter itself.
For a moment, I felt like you were the ice princess.
I just happened to get to know you through my fiance Joel who I was no longer interested in.

I can keep my appearance forever ?
No, not forever. She said I'd live few hundreds of years ... But I am 35 now. Should I have done this when I was 20 ?
Maybe, I am too old to even try this.
She said failure is most likely. Should I even bother ?
After much thoughts ...


I called a celebrity friend who was a close friend of mine.
Really ?
I can keep my youth until I die ? By just mere blood transfusion ?
Is it one of those wonderous East medicines ?
Does blood type matter at all ?
No, it doesn't. I guess her blood type is O.
Outcome may differ from a person to a person, so I am a little scared. I figured I'd try it out with you.
You are in 20s, so it's better for you to do it than me
This is the only chance.
Don't tell anyone else about it.
But if you want to refuse, try finding someone else

What ?
Someone else ?
Well, it doesn't matter.
I gave you a chance. Use it however you like.
Her voice was cold...
It was just so cold ...

What ... is happening ...
My body feels ... weird ! What are those dots ?!
Marie ... ! Something's wrong. Call a doctor !
Marie !
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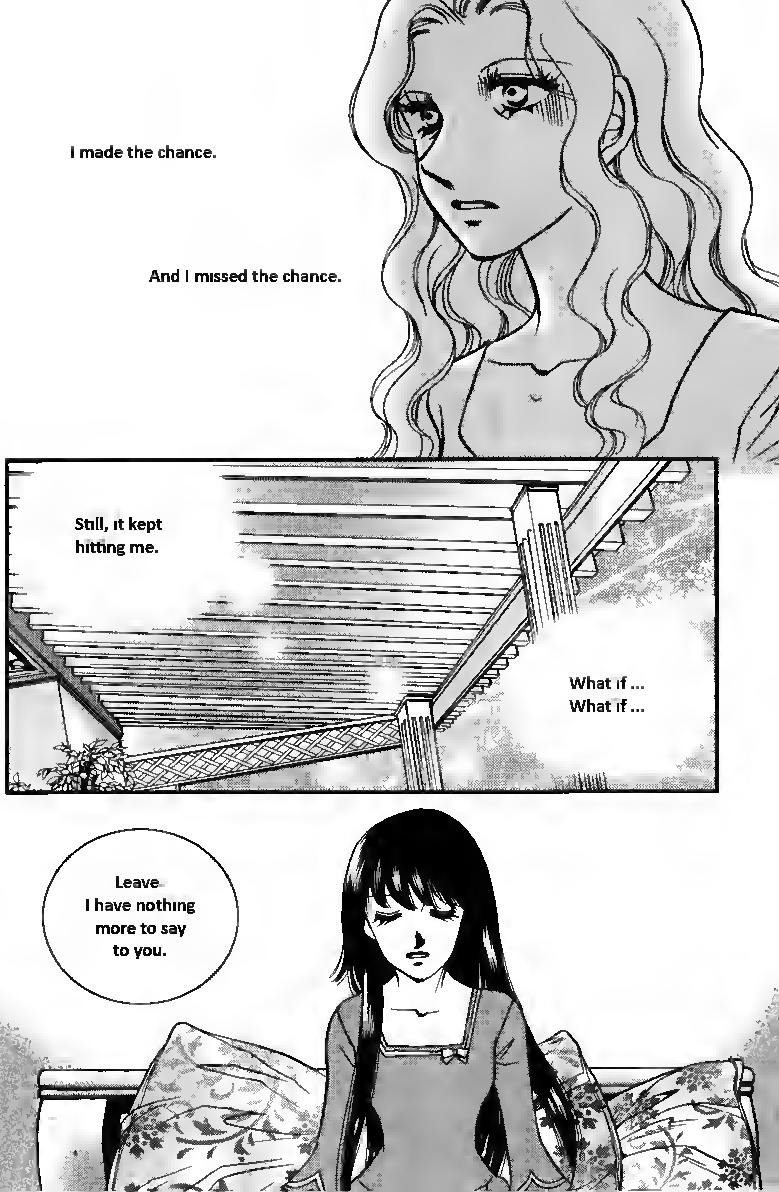
What have you done to me ?!
She died few days later of unknown cause.
Donna left.
And I don't want to see you anymore, Marie.
I hope we won't run into each other in the future.


I made the chance.
And I missed the chance.
Still, it kept hitting me.
What if ...
What if ...
Leave.
I have nothing more to say to you.

It's the last favor from a dying old woman ...
You know that won't work on me.
I gave you a chance and you used it.
You even took someone else's life for it.

I beg you.
Why are you doing this, Marie ?
You were once a proud noble lady.
You were full of pride when you claimed to have taken *Joel away from me.
*Joel : Joel Benders
Had Joel ever asked you for blood transfusion ?
For eternal youth ...
No, he had never ...
I loved him because he didn't want such.

That was also why I didn't hate him when he left me.
I am sorry ...
He chose to live his life neturally.
*Joel Benders was her "ex".
You don't look so good. Why don't you rest ?
I will come back tomorrow...
I said I decline
If you come here once more, I will leave to enother country.

Allow me to visit you as an old friend.
I am too tired from just seeing you today ...
I will rest and come back tomorrow.
Allow me to at least talk to you please.
.....
There is no guarantee that I will be alive tomorrow anyway.

CLLA TOWNE
Terrazz
Bistro

When do you leave, miss ?

.....

Sir, if you are done with your meal, please leave.
Oh, they kick customers like this in Korea ?

No, of course not.

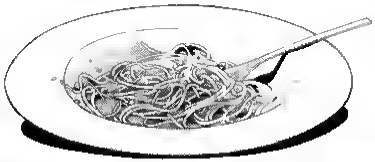
When do you leave?

8 ...

Ok, I will see you at 8 here.

What's up with him ?

He suddenly called me and asked me where I worked.

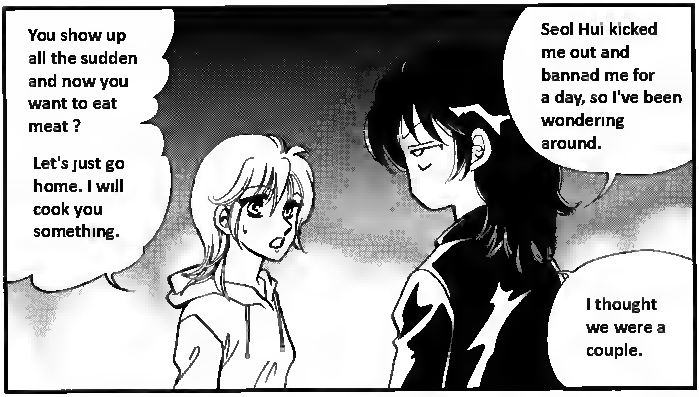


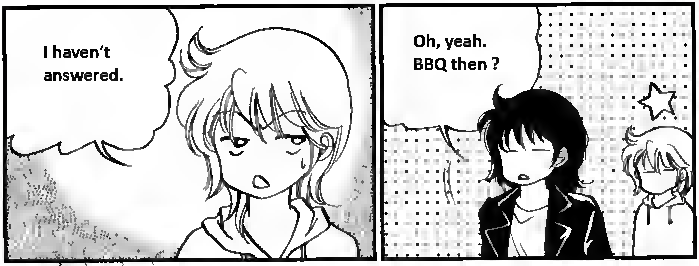
He didn't even finish his meal.

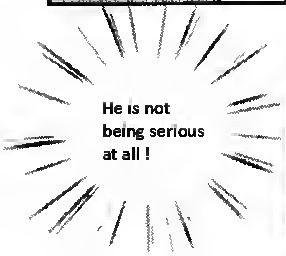
Let's go eat some meat, Sera-chan.

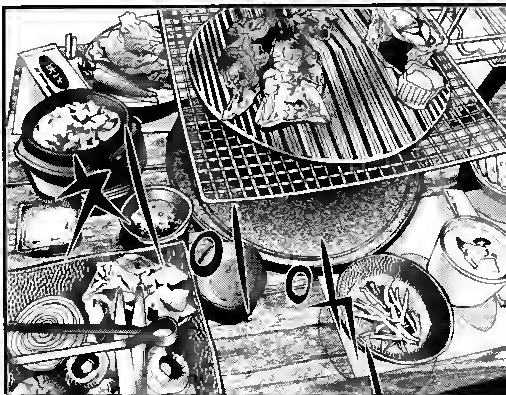
Eh ?

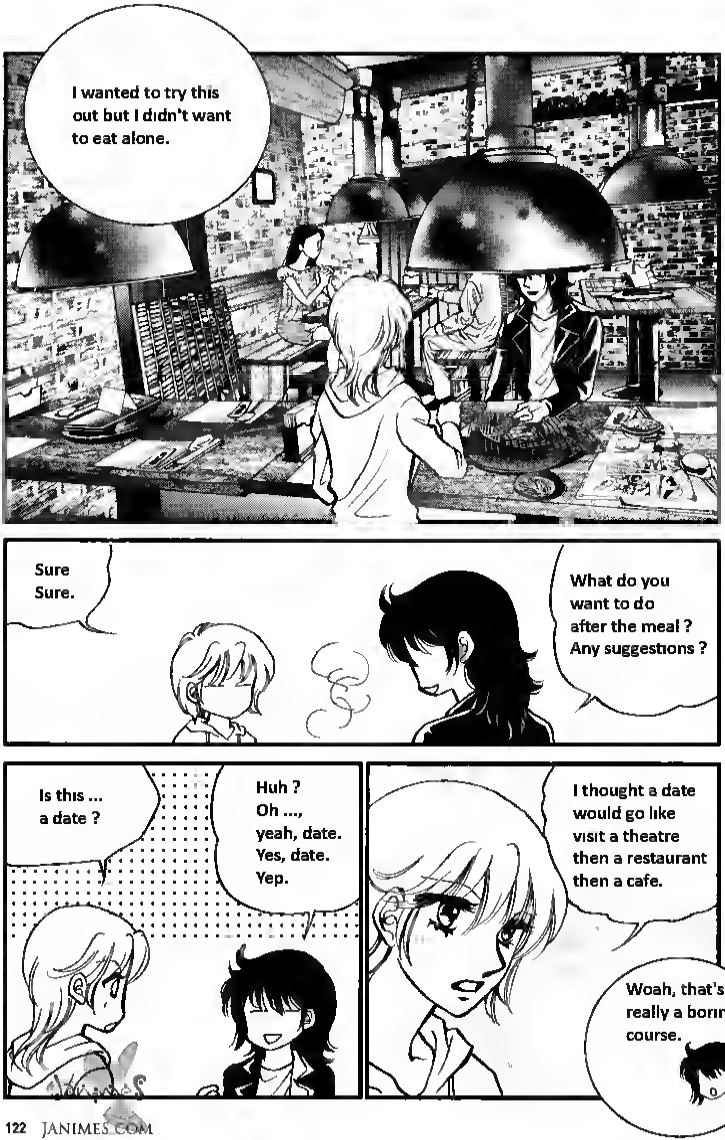
Um ...


You show up all the sudden and now you want to eat meat ?
Let's just go home. I will cook you something.
Seol Hui kicked me out and banned me for a day, so I've been wondering around.
I thought we were a couple.


I haven't answered.
Oh, yeah. BBQ then ?


He is not being serious at all !



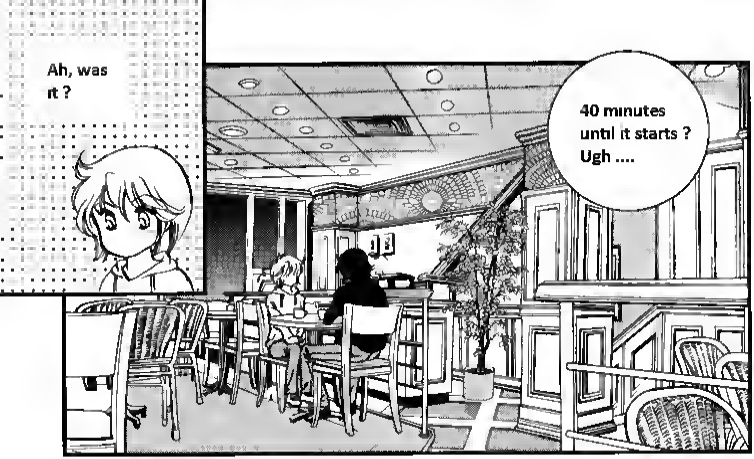

I wanted to try this out but I didn't want to eat alone.
Sure
Sure.
What do you want to do after the meal ? Any suggestions ?
Is this ... a date ?
Huh ? Oh ..., yeah, date. Yes, date. Yep.
I thought a date would go like visit a theatre then a restaurant then a cafe.
Woah, that's really a boring course.

And you are looking at a girl who has never had even a borning date !
Never had a date before
Okay, okay, let's go watch a movie then.
It's a little late though. Are there any that's open at this hour ?
Yes, there are night theatres where they let you watch three movies per ticket.
Three ?! I can't watch that many at once.
So boring.
I watch movies like that though.
I am in drama course, so I have to watch lots of movies.
Okay, alright. Let's go. I will just take a nap if it gets too boring.

Even though he complained and so on, he still went along with it ... That makes me feel a little guilty ...
시네마천국

I will pay for the tickets.

Forget it, you are ten years younger than me and you are a student.
And I thought this was a date.



Actually, I have class tomorrow.

But the reason I am watching the movies is that I was actually pleased that he came to see me and that I wanted to be with him.

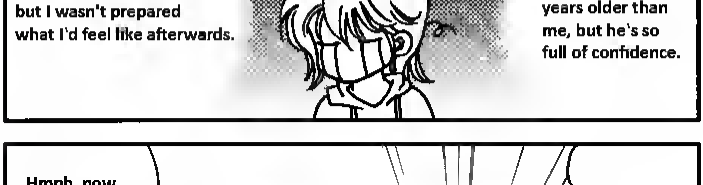
Even though I certainly acted differently.

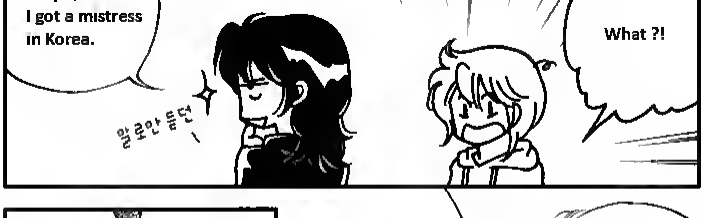
I acted cranky earlier because I was at work.

So, what is your answer ?
Pardon ?
You said earlier that you haven't answered. So, what is it ?
Eh, well ...
I am going to cancel it if you are going to drag.

I will be your girlfriend !
Good.

I felt like saying a big NO, but I wasn't prepared what I'd feel like afterwards.
I know he is 10 years older than me, but he's so full of confidence.


Hmph, now I got a mistress in Korea.
What ?!


A joke.
Even for a joke, I don't like that.
.... Do you have a girlfriend in Japan ?

Hmm, I don't have an official girlfriend.
But there are girls who claim to be my girlfriend.

왠지 많은 것을 생각하게 하는 대사
*translation : A phrase that makes one think of many things

But right now I have only one and that's you.
So, don't feel insecure about it.

I feel happy ... but at the same time, I feel like he is way out of my league.
Why did you ask me out ?
Because you are bored in Korea ?

Because you don't know about me.
You don't have any preconceptions about me.
Should I have told him that I knew a little about him ?
6 heurs
Although all I read was just an article.

I couldn't concentrate well while watching the movies.
I found myself glancing at him for every little movements he made.
I found my first date to be pleasant, but at the same time, I felt that this nervousness I was feeling was abnormal.
We are here to watch movies. Why can't I just watch movies ?

Love is strange emotion.
Why do I need to feel insecure
even when he is right next to me ?
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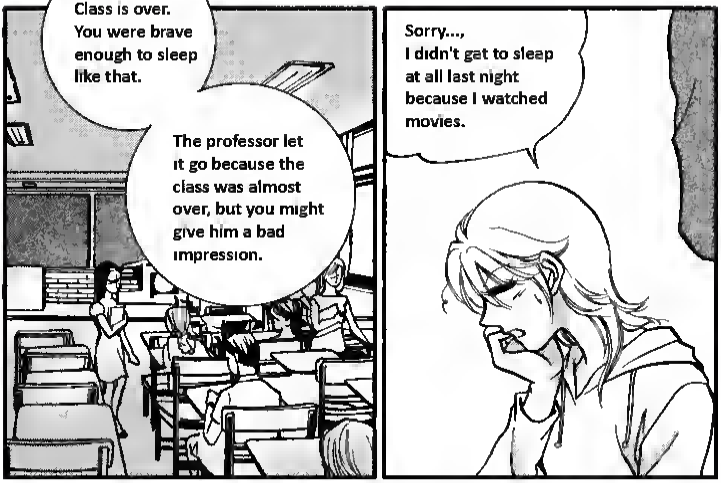
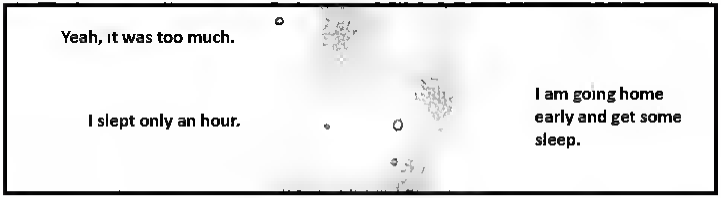
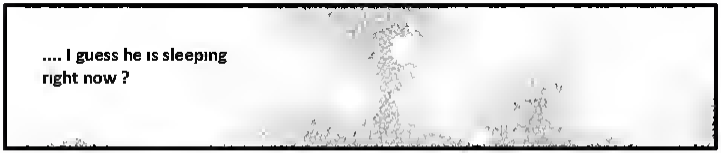
Is this [illegible] love even... ?

Sera
Wake up, Sera.
Sera !
Eh ?
Ah ?


Class is over.
You were brave enough to sleep like that.
The professor let it go because the class was almost over, but you might give him a bad impression.
Sorry....,
I didn't get to sleep at all last night because I watched movies.


Yeah, it was too much.
I slept only an hour.
I am going home early and get some sleep.

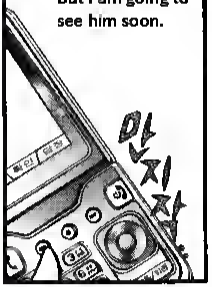

.... I guess he is sleeping right now ?

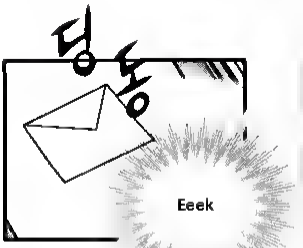
I now remember him as Arashi more than his Korean name, Chunsan.

I guess it's because I've spent some time with him.

Should I send him a text ?

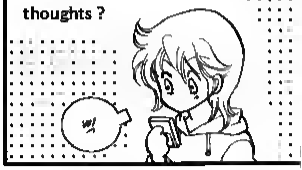
But I am going to see him soon.



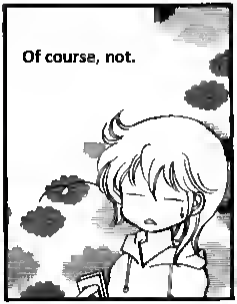


Eeek

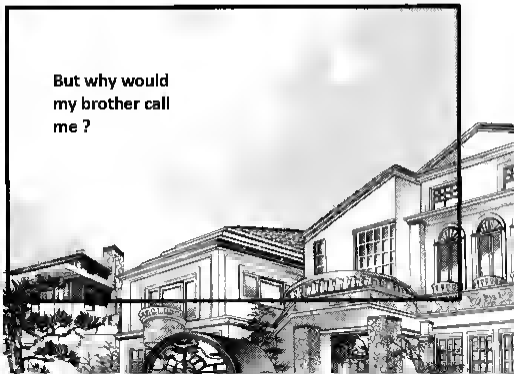
Good timing. Maybe, we share our thoughts ?



Of course, not.



But why would my brother call me ?



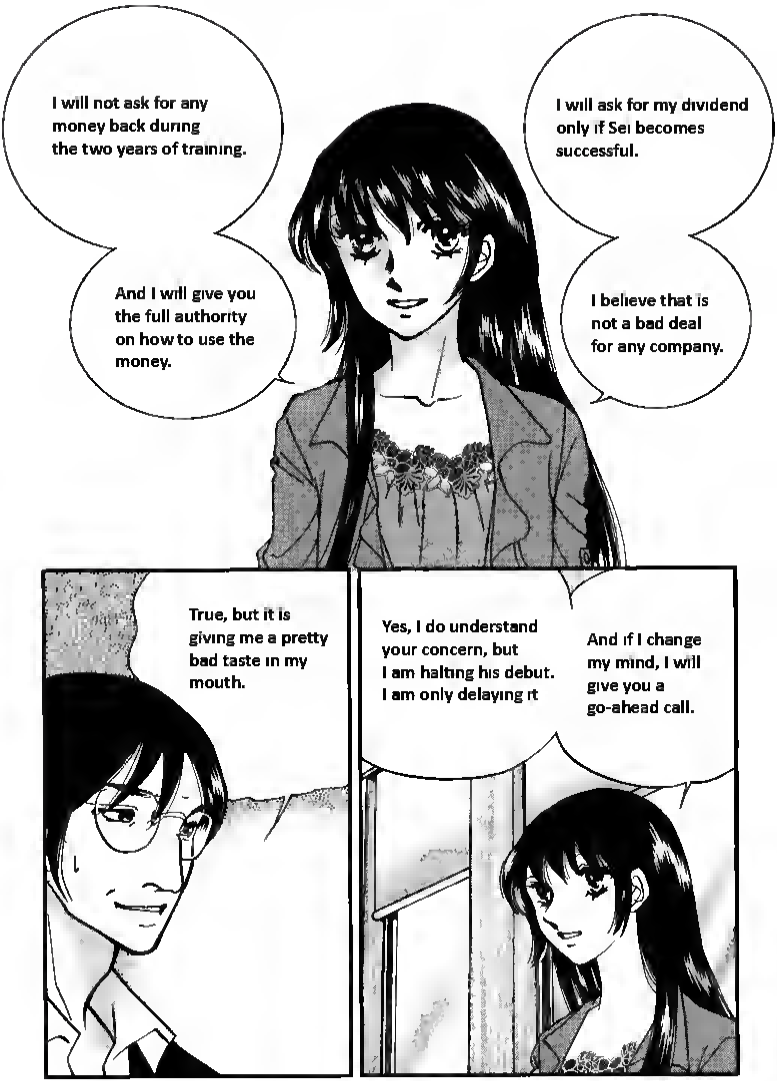
I see.
I will talk to you today.
No, actually it's fine.
I was planning to leave the country, but I will take care of this before leaving.
Yes, see you soon

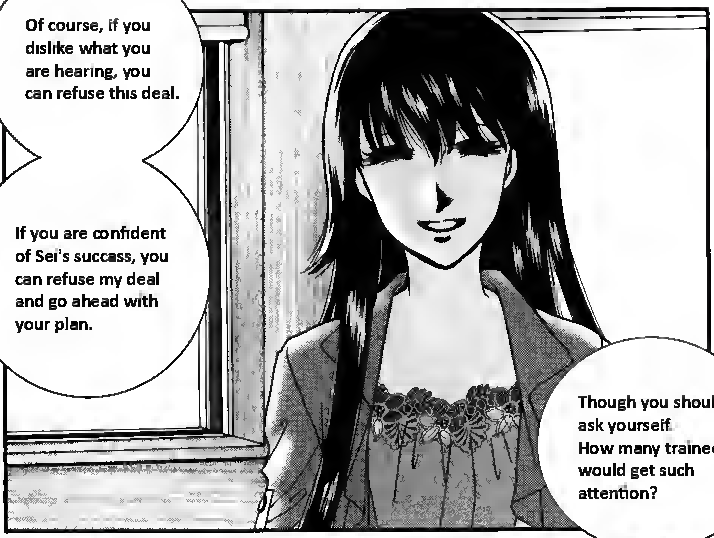
(Door bell)
딩동
딩동
딩동
딩동
딩동
딩동
딩동
Ah, really !
Who is it ?
... Excuse me, is Miss Benders available ?
Benders ?
If you mean Seol Hui, no, she isn't here. In fact, I am alone right now.
He can speak English

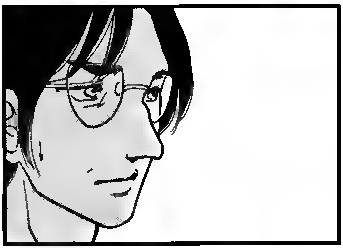
I don't exist.
I am like a ghost here.
If you have a business with her, call her.
I don't know who you are but could I wait inside ?
Weird old woman.
She's not home? What should we do ?
Let us wait in the car.

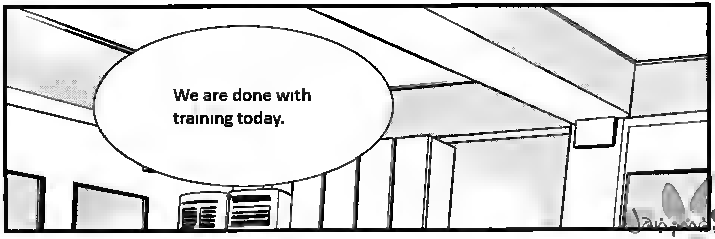
i have enough water and pills here. Let's wait until evening.
The girl who's staying here should at least return home by then. And i can ask her.
Call a translator.
Yes.

Hey, that is a real ferrari.
Whose is it ? Is a celebrity visiting here ?
Awesome.
That car is ...
So..., your condition is to delay his debut by 2 years ...
I don't understand why you do not want me to do any promotions during that time however.
Since you are investing in him, shouldn't you want to make as many chances you can?
And when a good chance comes, you should go for it.
Normally, yes, but my condition is that.


I will not ask for any money back during the two years of training.
And I will give you the full authority on how to use the money.
I will ask for my dividend only if Sei becomes successful.
I believe that is not a bad deal for any company.
True, but it is giving me a pretty bad taste in my mouth.
Yes, I do understand your concern, but I am halting his debut. I am only delaying it
And if I change my mind, I will give you a go-ahead call.


Of course, if you dislike what you are hearing, you can refuse this deal.
If you are confident of Sei's success, you can refuse my deal and go ahead with your plan.
Though you should ask yourself. How many trainees would get such attention?




We are done with training today.

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What ?
Why ?
I don't know.
Change of plan
maybe.
It's from top.
We gotta halt.
Don't worry
too much and
rest today.
Well, I bet
it's nothing
serious.
Sei ~
I heard you
are free today
Let's go for
a meal !

I am not in mood for that.
Why are you here anyway ?
I will let you drive my ferrari.
You said you'd believe me if I let you drive it.
What ?!
She is the owner of the ferrari ?!

Shit, the control is weird.
Transmission is hybrid, and you use hand for acceleration and foot for break ?
It's because this is the first time driving it. Just don't break it again.
... Is it fun to play people's mind with money ?
Have I ...
Done that ?
I guess if I just tell you not to get driven by that
that's too much tok ask, Isn't it ?
I guess that's too much to ask.
Are you mocking me ?
I will pay the debt !

Sure, sure.
I am sure Sera will be done paying it for you by the time you are ready.
I am hungry. Let's go to Han river.
Fine
This is the date Sera tried to set up.
What ? No way.
Thunder

Way.
I don't want to get involved with you.
Thunder
What do you want to eat ? I will pay.
Do you dislike me ?
I have no reason to like you rather.
The former life stuff is not something I want to talk and even think about.
Thunder

Good, I will make sure that you will dislike me more.
And I don't like that attitude.
You act as if I don't have any choices.
Thunder

Seeing you like that makes me think that you've remembered everything.
I wish you could actually remember.
So that you can hate me.
And fear me.
Let's just eat.

Though I must say I am liking you more and more.
My, my, what should I do ?
.....
Damn it ! I wanna drink !
Alcohol ....
Wanna drink ?

I have to go home ...
I have to ... make dinner ....
No ...
No more ...
Why did this happen to me ...
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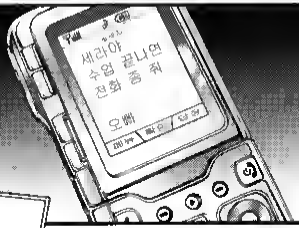
Why ...
Why does something like this happen constantly in my family ?

Why did even mom get involved with something like that ...



Sera ...,
we have a problem ...

It turns out that the insurance company mom was working for was just fraud.

The company CEO loaned big fund and simply ran away.

You've seen such fraud from news occasionally, haven't you ?

Mom found it strange that her paycheck didn't arrive this month.

It seems the CEO disappeared few days ago.

The company offered very high interest, so mom took out a loan for our house and asked her friends for loans to make a big deposit.

I was told mom that you let her make an account and made a deposit of 2.000 dollars also.

The whole sum is 30.000 dollars. She needs to pay it back ASAP.

We have absolutely no way of getting another loan on anything. Could you ask your friend for a loan ?

Mom couldn't dare telling you that, so I calling you instead.

It wasn't her fault.
It was just bad luck.

She is not the bad one.

But..., but ....,
this just ... makes
me feel weakened.

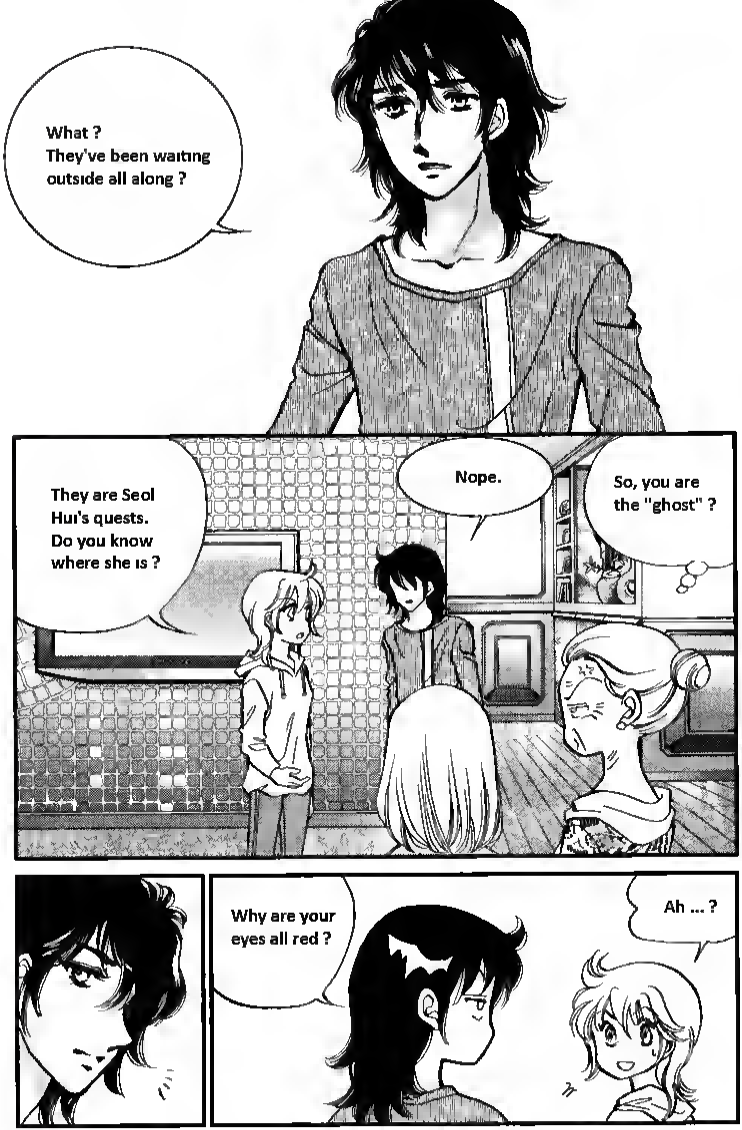
Why did she fall
into such a scam ...

Why ...

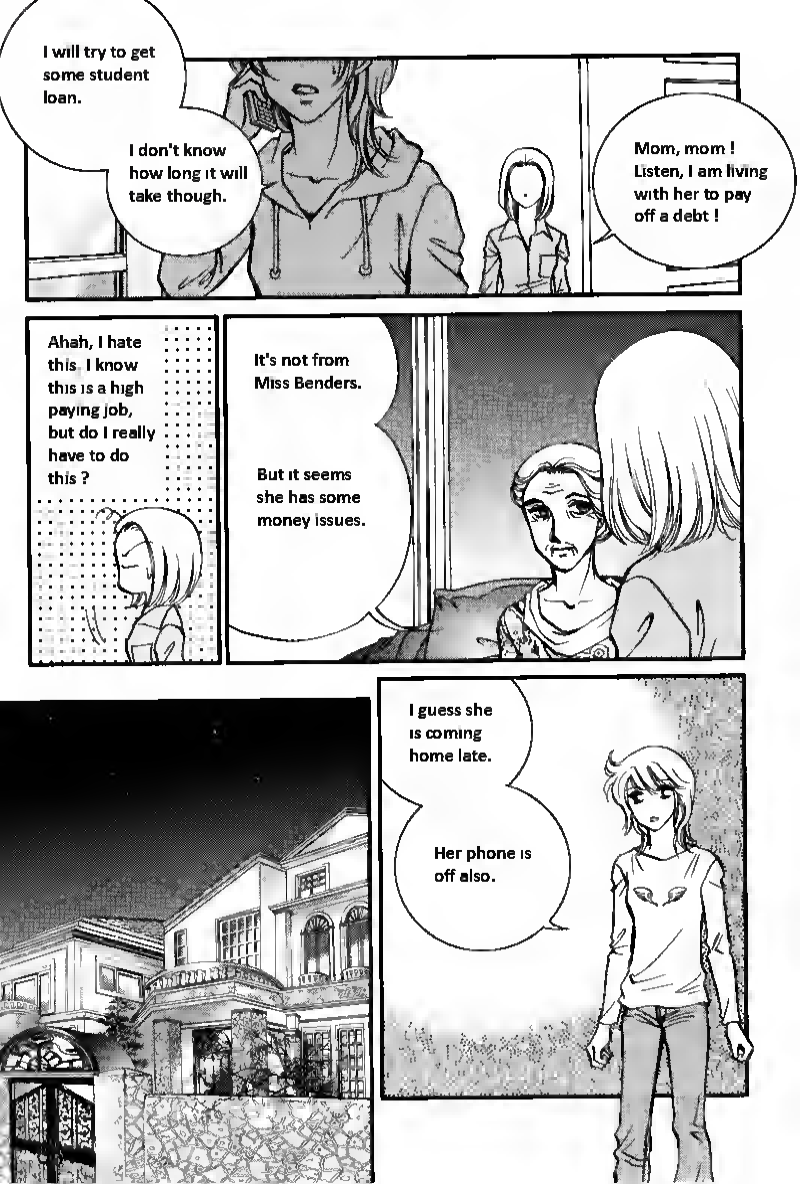
I don't even want to tell Seol Hui about it ...

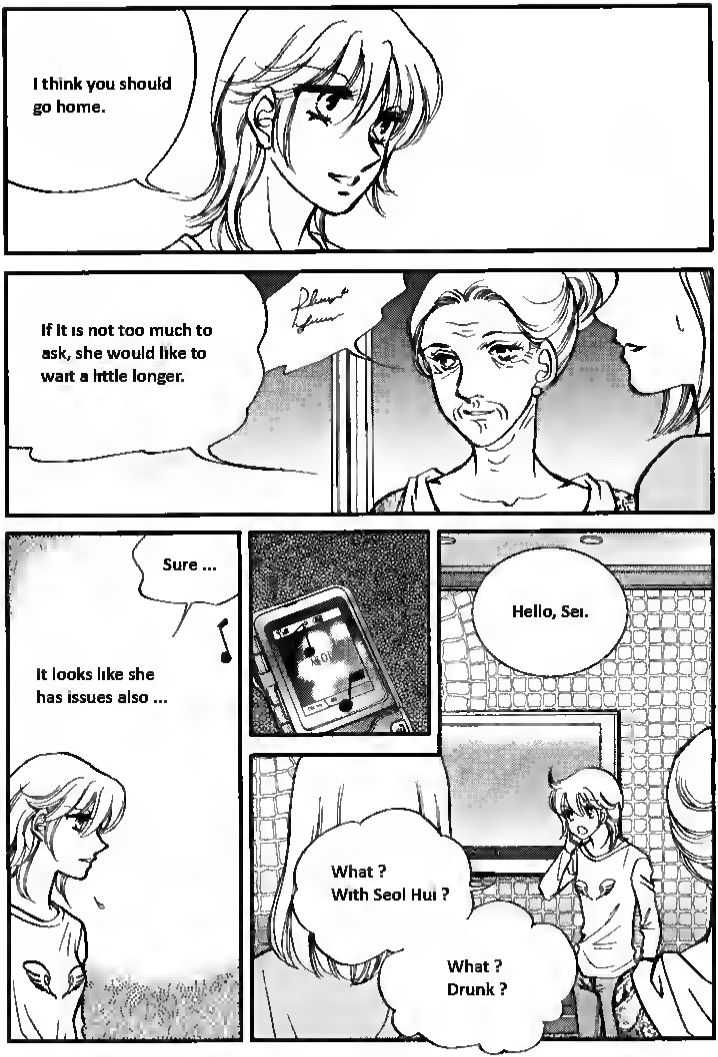
*She is trying to say
"What are you doing here" in English.

We see each other again.
Yes.
Miss Benders isn't at home. Do you know where she is ?
I don't know.
Alright, could we at leest use wash room ?
Sure, you can wait inside.


What ?
They've been waiting outside all along ?
They are Seol Hui's quests. Do you know where she is ?
Nope.
So, you are the "ghost" ?
Why are your eyes all red ?
Ah ... ?

It's probably because I didn't get enough sleep.
I am sorry, but could you eavesdrop her and see if the call is from Benders ?
Ah ? .... Sure ...
... Yes, mom. I know the story now.
I just got home. No, she is not here.
Listen, mom, I cannot talk to her about any money !


I will try to get some student loan.
I don't know how long it will take though.
Mom, mom ! Listen, I am living with her to pay off a debt !
Ahah, I hate this. I know this is a high paying job, but do I really have to do this ?
It's not from Miss Benders.
But it seems she has some money issues.
I guess she is coming home late.
Her phone is off also.


I think you should go home.
If it is not too much to ask, she would like to wait a little longer.
Sure ...
It looks like she has issues also ...
Hello, Sei.
What ? With Seol Hui ?
What ? Drunk ?

It's from Miss Benders.
Where are you ?
If she's drunk, you should drive.
It seems she is drunk.
Um, she is coming home right now, but she's drunk. I don't think you can talk to her.
She says ...
Drunk ?
She didn't leave this country at least.
Good.
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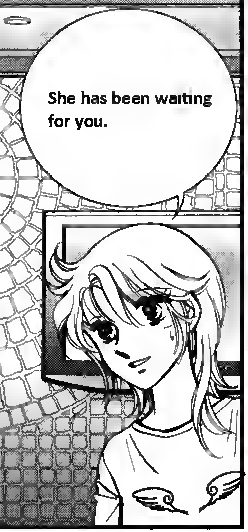
Ah, geez.
Seraaaaaaaa
Thunder
How much did she drink ?
A single bottle of bear and she's been like this for 3 hours ! Can you believe that ?
I am a cheap date, hahahaha
Sob Sera, scold Sei for me.
He says my birthday gift date you tried to set up was done with today's beer and a dish of fried chickens !
What ?

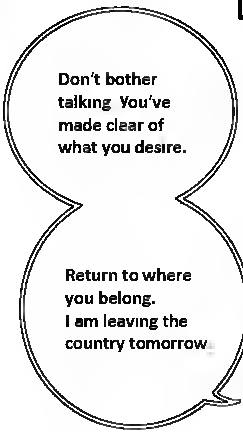
Hey, is that how you deal with nearly 20-year old friend's request ?!
Have you forgotten why I got into this mess in the first place ?!
Though I am not going to claim that this new life is bad
That was all I could do.
I just don't have time for a full date.
Translate what they are saying.
Well ...
If you do this, I can't accept my brithday gift that she promised !

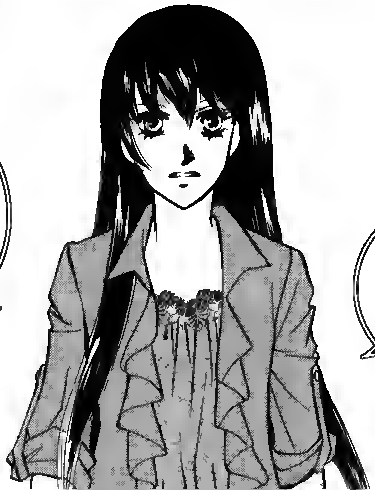
Birthday gift ?
A promise ?
Ah ?
What the ?!
Why is that old
woman here still ?!
...


She has been waiting for you.

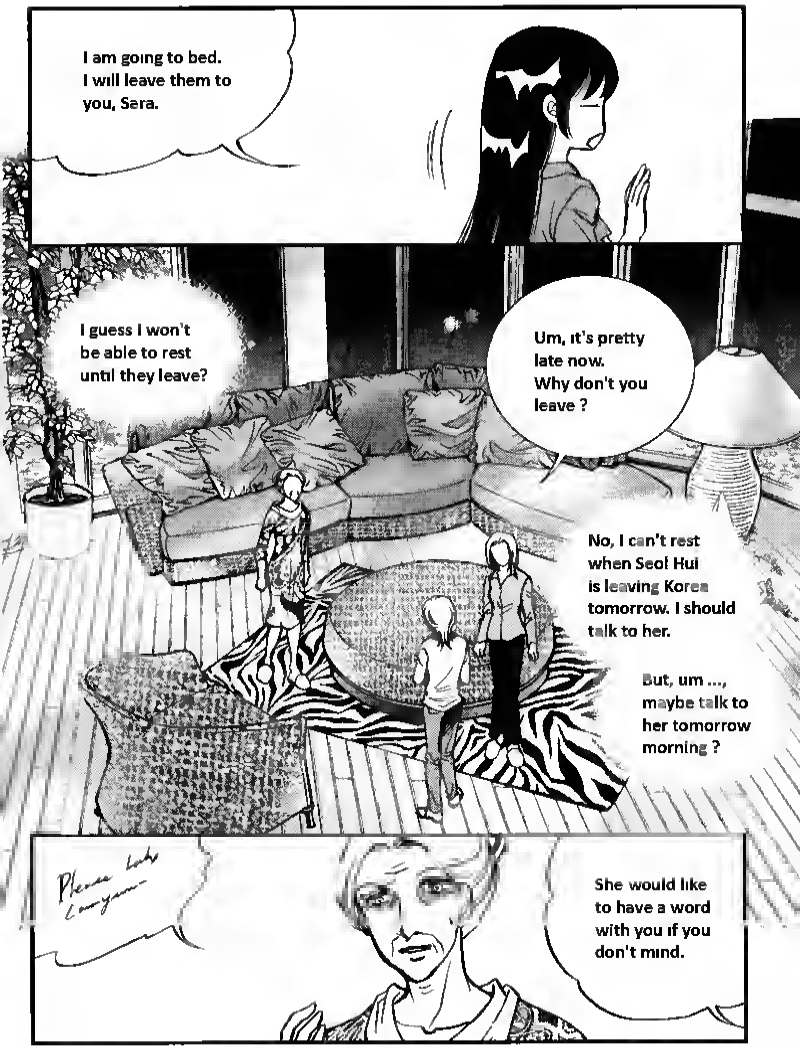
I believe I told you to leave me be.

I just wanted to talk.


Don't bother talking You've made clear of what you desire.
Return to where you belong.
I am leaving the country tomorrow.


Give up.

What is she saying?
She says she's going to leave tomorrow
Leave tomorrow?
Who's that ?
I don't know ...
Sera, your face is all red. Are you alright ?
I didn't get to sleep last night and I've been up until now.
I am feeling a little tired.
And a fever also...
Yes..., no wonder I am tired ...

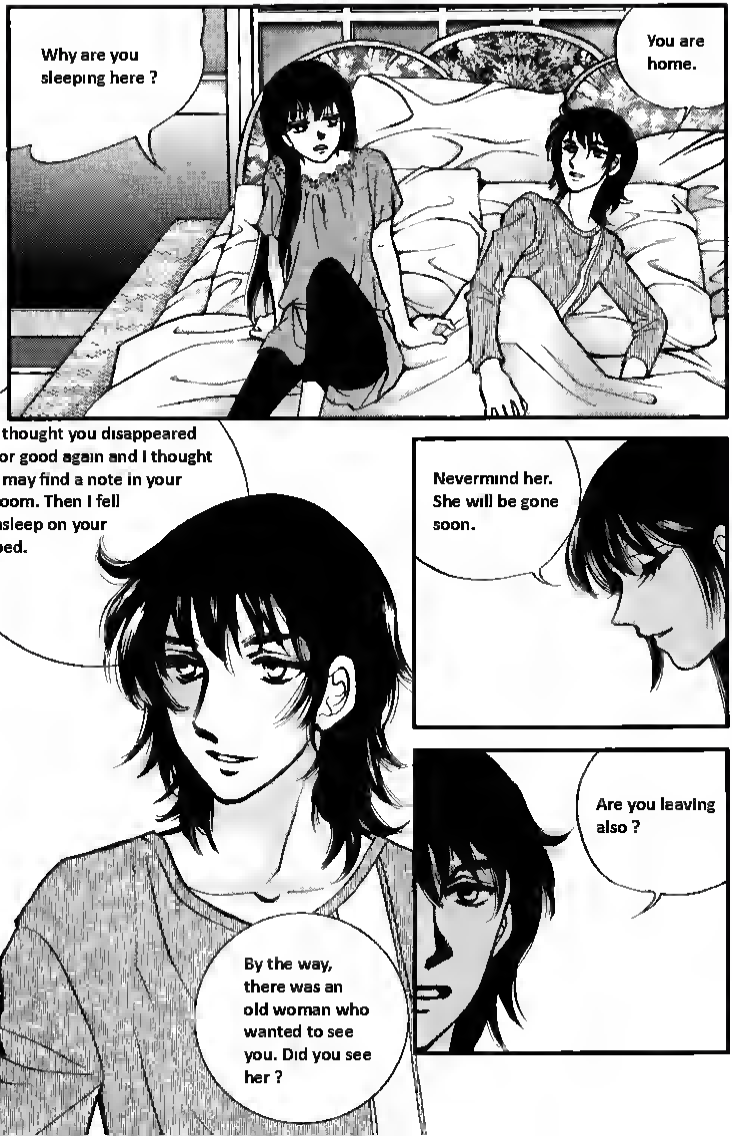

I am going to bed. I will leave them to you, Sera.
I guess I won't be able to rest until they leave?
Um, it's pretty late now. Why don't you leave ?
No, I can't rest when Seol Hui is leaving Korea tomorrow. I should talk to her.
But, um ..., maybe talk to her tomorrow morning ?
Please talk to her again
She would like to have a word with you if you don't mind.

Eh ?

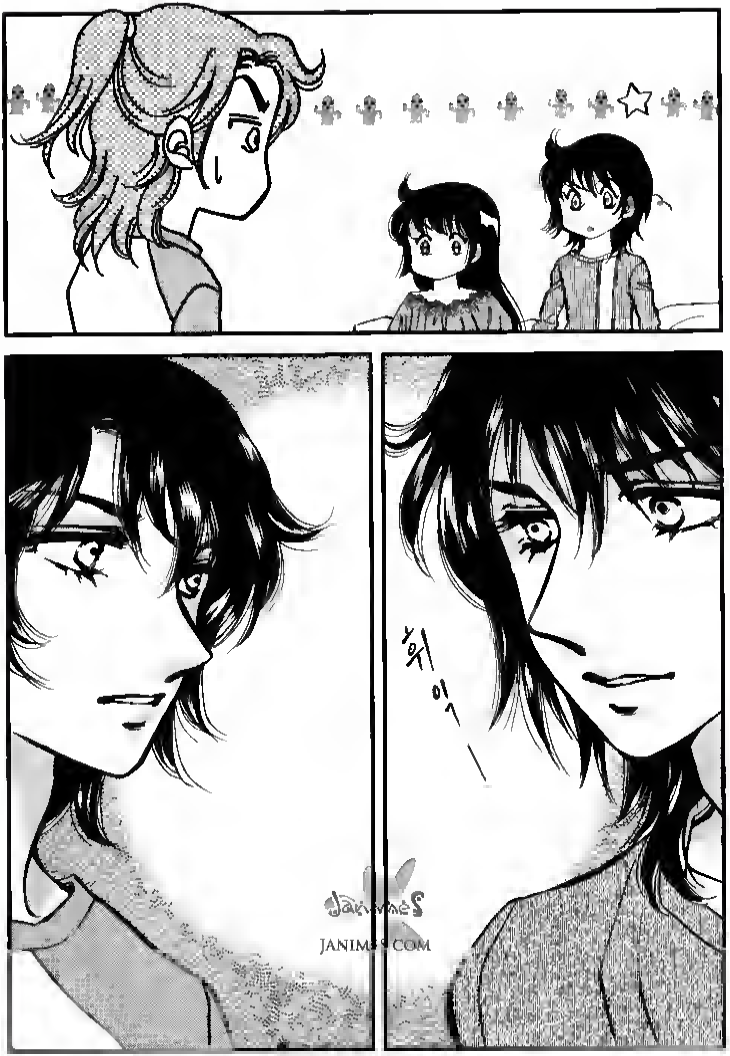
Ugh -
Ah -

Huh ?

People never change, do they ?
Geez, Marie ..., you haven't changed at all.


Why are you sleeping here ?
You are home.
I thought you disappeared for good again and I thought I may find a note in your room. Then I fell asleep on your bed.
Nevermind her. She will be gone soon.
Are you leaving also ?
By the way, there was an old woman who wanted to see you. Did you see her ?

I told you to forget about making me die with you.
I've given up on that. I just have one sincere question to ask.
Are you ...
Hey ! Call me a taxi ! I don't have money at all for a cab !
You can't leave here without a car at this hour !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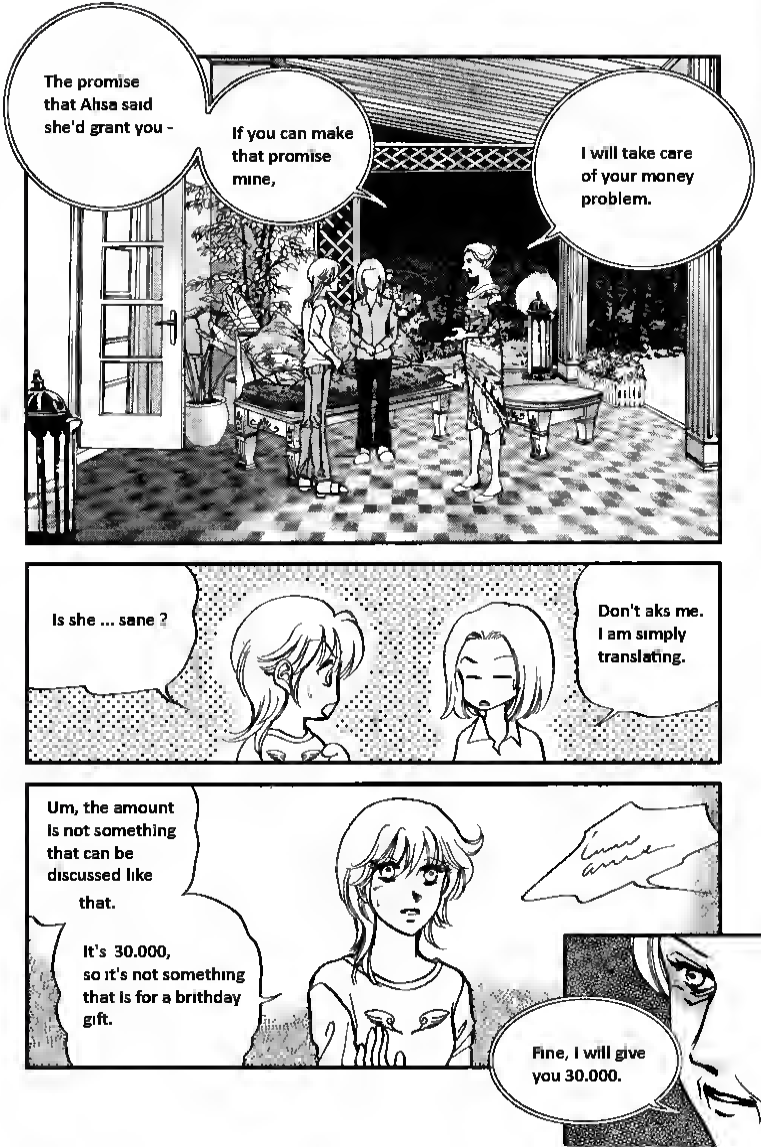
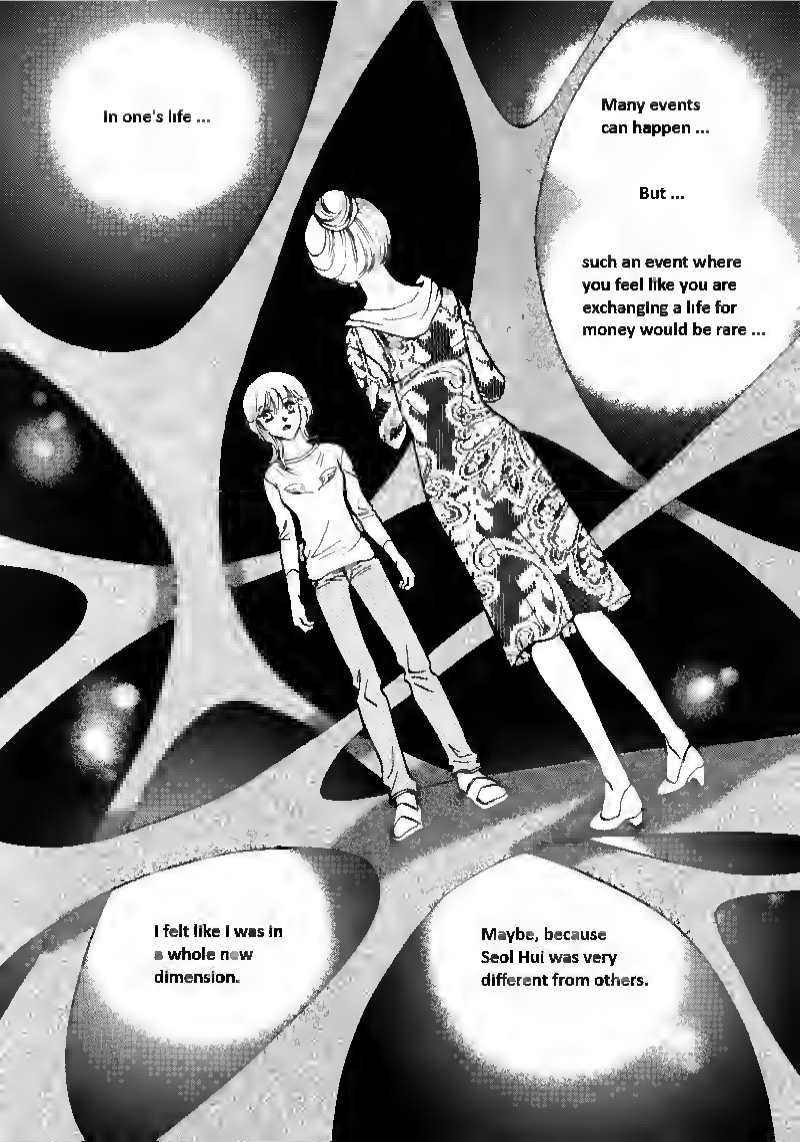
He does look similar to me.
Who is that ?
And what's this situation ?
You had a boyfriend ?
So, you weren't making it up about former life stuff.
Kkya ~, what are you talking about, Sei ?
I am not !
You are the only one for me !
Are you jealous ?!
I am so happy !
His girlfriend is Sera, not me. Don't worry.
I am not worried !

Wait a second. Sera ? He is going out with Sera ?!
Seriously ?!

You must be joking ...


The promise that Ahsa said she'd grant you -
If you can make that promise mine,
I will take care of your money problem.
Is she ... sane ?
Don't aks me. I am simply translating.
Um, the amount is not something that can be discussed like that.
It's 30.000, so it's not something that is for a brithday gift.
Fine, I will give you 30.000.

G, give me ?I No, you don't mean that I
If giving you the money makes you feel awkward,
I will loan you the money with no deadline.
Under one condition. If I die before you can pay me back, you can keep the money.
I have 3 months to live.


In one's life ...
Many events can happen ...
But ...
such an event where you feel like you are exchanging a life for money would be rare ...
I felt like I was in a whole new dimension.
Maybe, because Seol Hui was very different from others.

I am being serious, young lady.
All you have to do is tell Alisa that your wish is my wish. That will be all.
It may not be something she can help you with.
What is ... your wish ?
What kind of wish warrants her to spend so much money ?
That is up to Alisa to decide.
All you have to do is tell her.

It is a dying old woman's last request. Please think about it.
Sera, call a cab company.
She doesn't even know her home adress.
Thunder
Uh..., okay.
Thanks for everything. Call me soon.

Are you leaving ?
Do you mind taking me with you until the intersection ?
Sure.
Sera, I am leaving. I want to talk to you later though.
.... Uh...,
okay ....
Bye~
어~

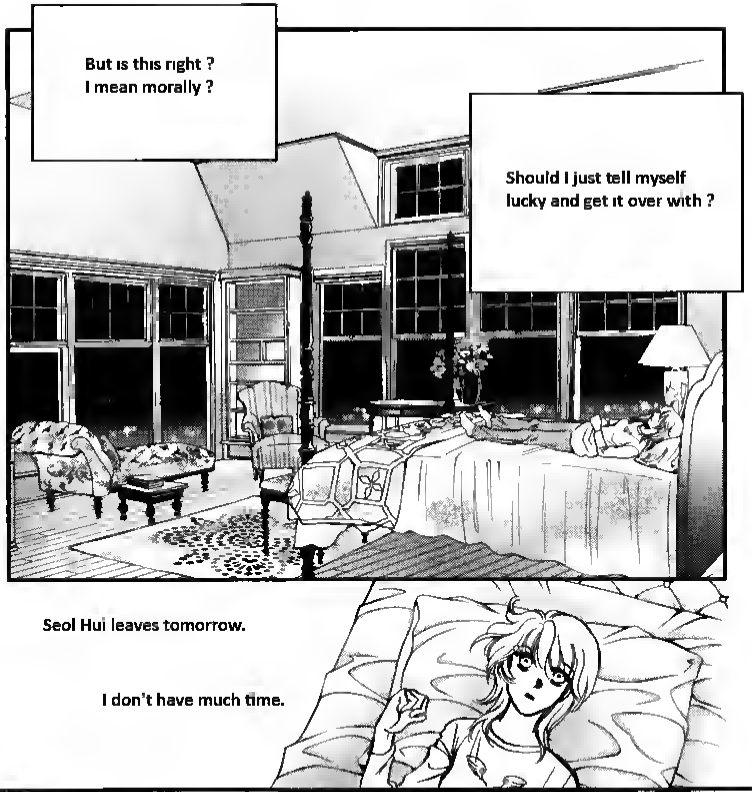
Please call me tomorow, young lady.

You have to let her know before she leaves.

Ridiculous request.

Maybe, she is trying to do a good deed before her passing ?

To be honest, I have absolutely no reason to reject her request.


But is this right ?
I mean morally ?
Should I just tell myself lucky and get it over with ?
Seol Hui leaves tomorrow.
I don't have much time.
But my head hurts and my body feels so heavy.
I wanna sleep ...
Just a bit ...
And then I will decide.
And ...

JANIMES.COM

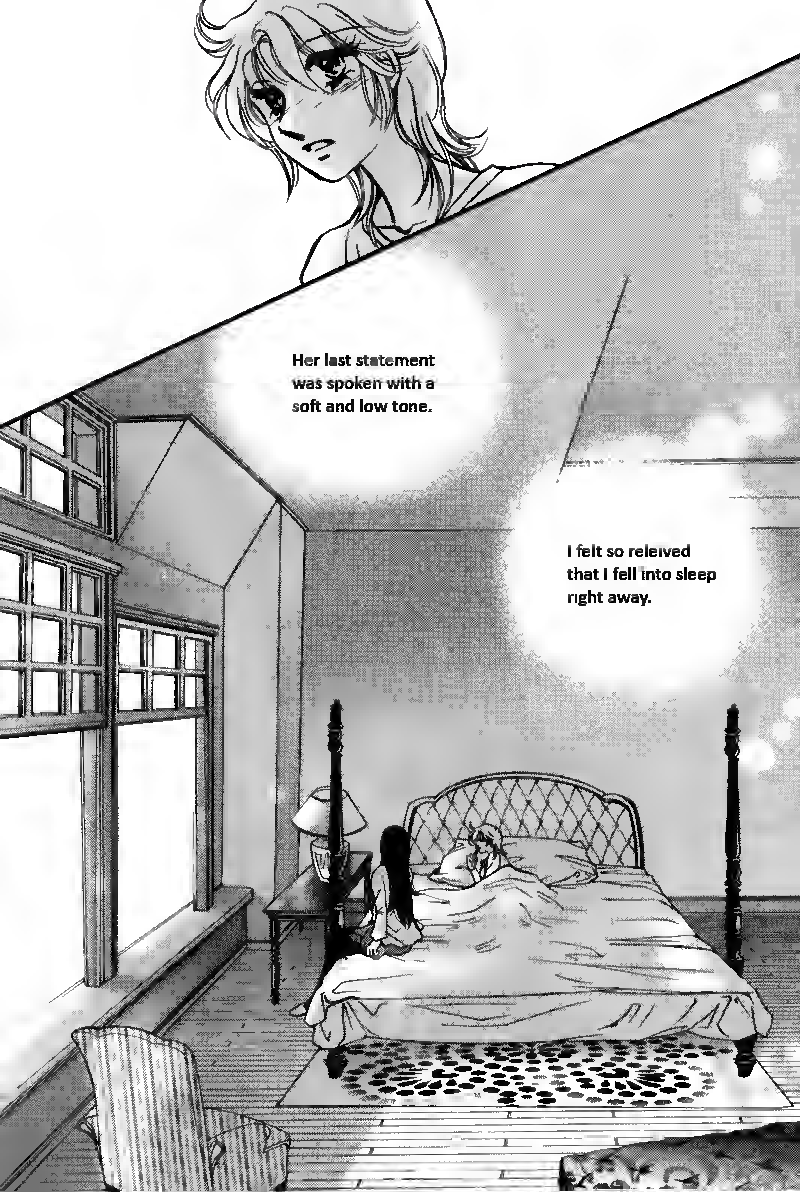
Sera, are you up yet ?
I am going on a trip today.
I may not be back on time for your brithday, so -

What ...
Is happening ... I feel like ... floating and my head is like ... numb...
... Sera
Sera -
A voice from a distance ...
Where am I ?
... 39 degrees
Hmm, should I take her to a hospital or just get her some pills ?
Seol Hui ?
Maybe I should let Arashi take care of her.
Is it morning already ?

Seol Hui ...
You are awake.
Why did you sleep like that with just clothes on without a bed sheet ? No wonder you got a cold. I have to go to the airport now.
Ask Arashi to take care of you.
This is your chance to enter love-love mode.
Seol Hui -

You made a promise to give me a birthday gift, didn't you.
Is it possible for you to make my wish her wish ?

Amazing, people can hardly change at all.
Yes, that's Marie, learned nothing from all these years.
Marie ? Who is she talking about ?
Okay, just lay down and take a rest.
i have no reason to go to the airport now.
You shall have your wish


Her last statement was spoken with a soft and low tone.
I felt so relieved that I fell into sleep right away.

What did you promise to Sera ?
She needed money.
I felt like I've done a good deed, so I am satisfied with the progress and outcome
Congratulations, you got it.
That was you I know from 50 years ago. You haven't changed at all.
Your methods and amount of desire continue to impress me.

Is it because of the pills ?

I can't ... wake up from my sleep....

What day is today ? Do I have work today ?

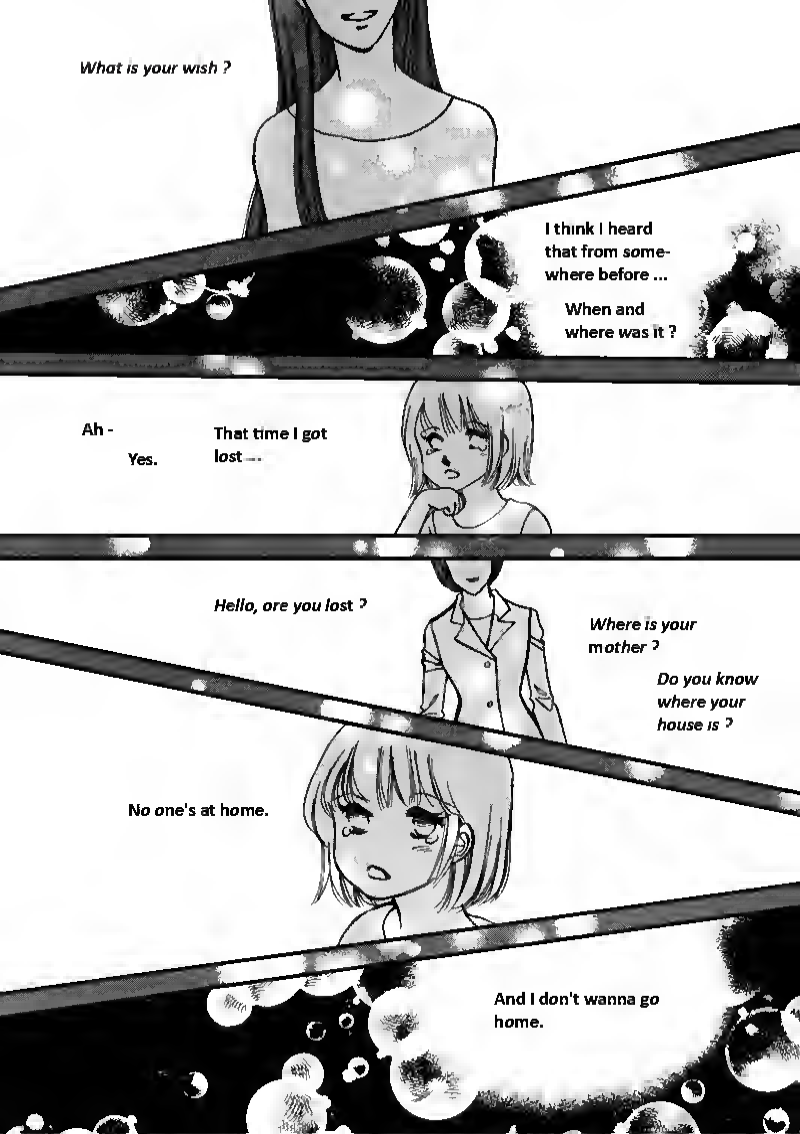
I have to let mom know ...

"You shall have your wish."

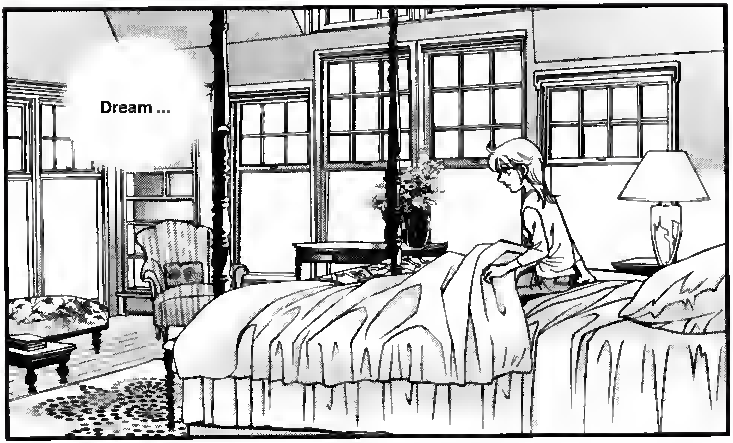
But my body feels ... so heavy.

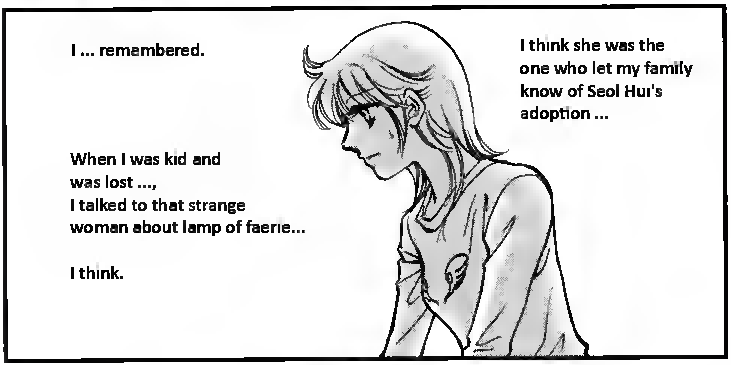
Her voice still echoes in my ears ...

In a mysterious way ...


What is your wish ?
I think I heard that from somewhere before ...
When and where was it ?
Ah -
Yes.
That time I got lost —.
Hello, are you lost ?
Where is your mother ?
Do you know where your house is ?
No one's at home.
And I don't wanna go home.

Let me help you
I will help you to find your home
Do you remember where it is ?
I don't know ...
I don't know ...
What is your nome ?
JANIMES.COM


Dream ...


I ... remembered.
When I was kid and was lost ..., I talked to that strange woman about lamp of faerie...
I think.
I think she was the one who let my family know of Seol Hui's adoption ...

But she looked exactly like Seol Hui in my dream ...
Why would I have that dream now ?

I don't wanna go home.

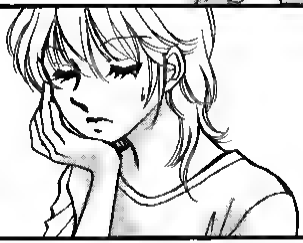
It was ... a painful memory for me ...

While I was asleep, my mother took only my brother to a relative's home where there was a family gathering and a party.

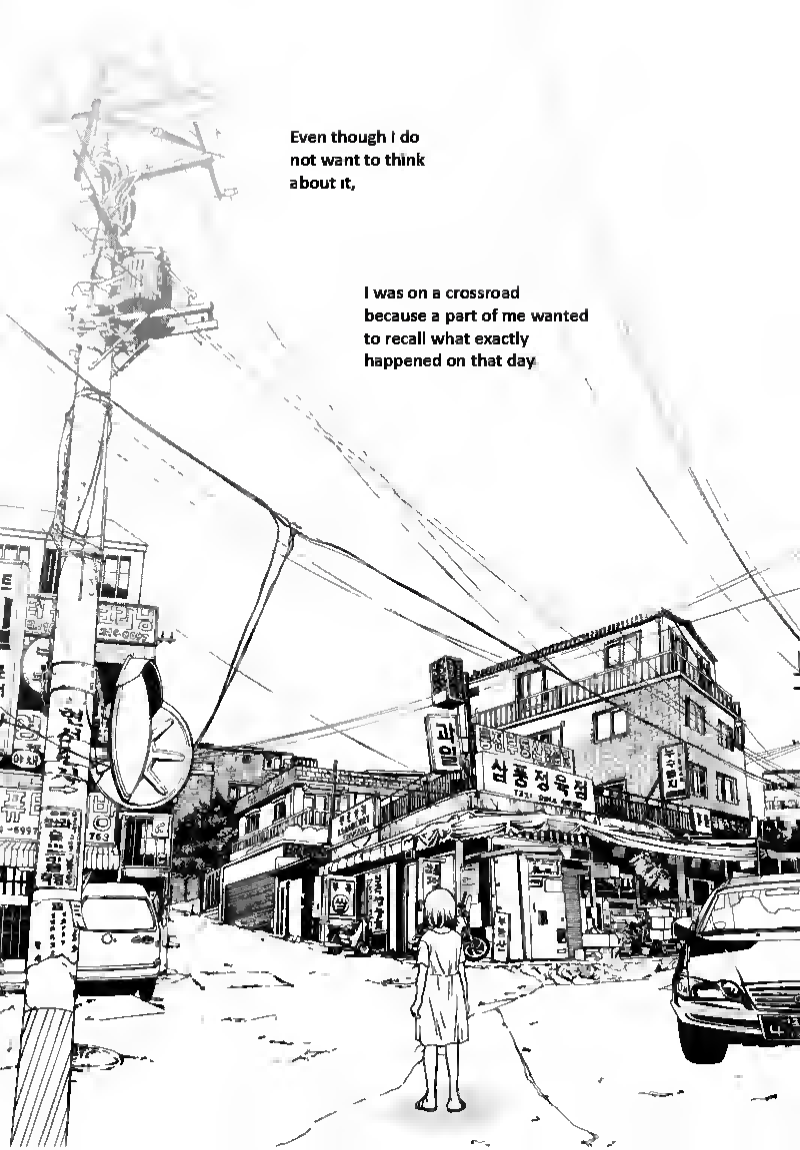
Though I was told that she asked my neighbor to look after me ...

How mother only took my brother was simply unacceptable ...

But I've never talked to her about that incident ...



I don't want to think about this.


Even though I do
not want to think
about it,
I was on a crossroad
because a part of me wanted
to recall what exactly
happened on that day.
삼풍정육점

Part 5. Dead or alive - End of part

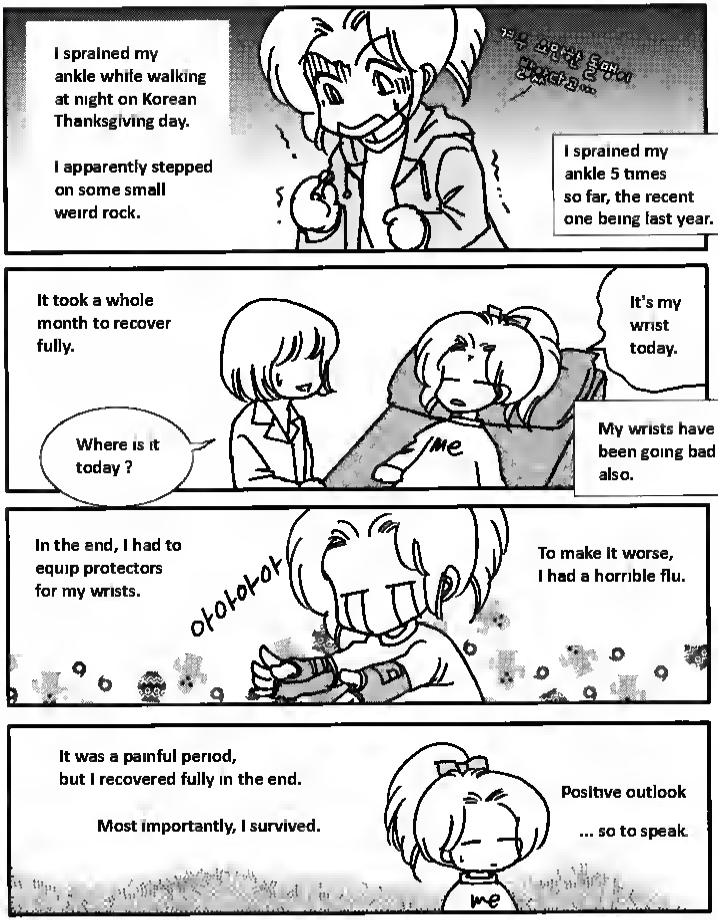
화실통신

By 강me

팝툰을 구독하셨던 분들은 이미 아실테지만
'설희' 첫 연재 매체였던 팝툰이
2010년 2월에 휴간되었습니다.

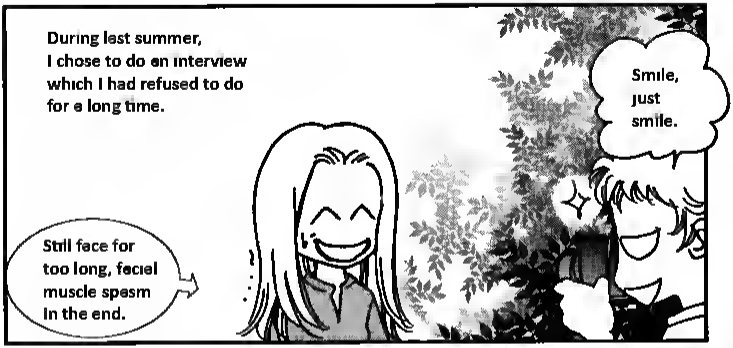
설희는 다행히 DAUM의 '만화속세상'에서
뒤를 이어가게 되었습니다.

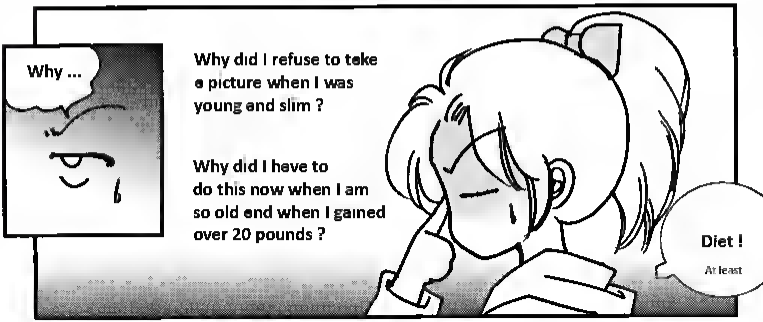
위낙 부담가는 작품이기도 해서
작품을 하면서도 힘은 들지만 그저 완결까지
무사한 행보를 가기를 바래봅니다.

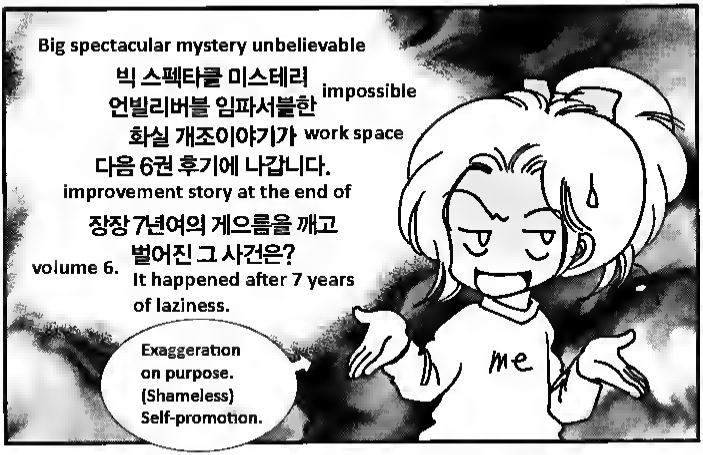

I sprained my ankle while walking at night on Korean Thanksgiving day.
I apparently stepped on some small weird rock.
I sprained my ankle 5 times so far, the recent one being last year.
It took a whole month to recover fully.
Where is it today ?
It's my wrist today.
My wrists have been going bad also.
In the end, I had to equip protectors for my wrists.
아아아아
To make it worse, I had a horrible flu.
It was a painful period, but I recovered fully in the end.
Most importantly, I survived.
Positive outlook
... so to speak.
me

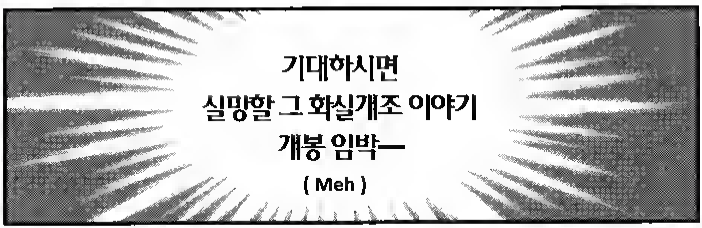
vol 3. 인터뷰

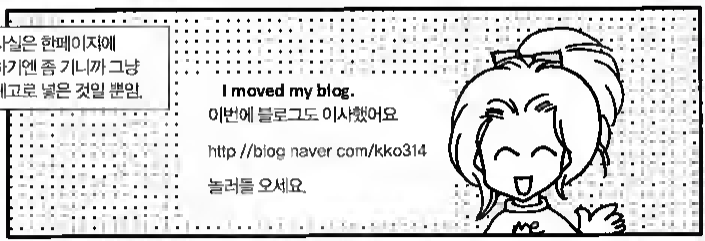
Interview




Why ...
Why did I refuse to take
a picture when I was
young and slim ?
Why did I have to
do this now when I am
so old and when I gained
over 20 pounds ?
Diet !
At least


Big spectacular mystery unbelievable
빅 스펙타큘 미스테리
언빌리버블 임파서블한
화실 개조이야기가
다음 6권 후기에 나갑니다.
장장 7년여의 게으름을 깨고
벌어진 그 사건은?
volume 6.
impossible
work space
improvement story at the end of
It happened after 7 years
of laziness.
Exaggeration
on purpose.
(Shameless)
Self-promotion.
me


기대하시면
실망할 그 화실개조 이야기
개봉 임박—
(Meh)


사실은 한페이지에
하기엔 좀 기니까 그냥
에고로 넣은 것일 뿐임.
I moved my blog.
이번에 블로그도 이사했어요
http //blog naver com/kko314
놀러들 오세요.
me

Book scanned, edited, and translated by Sura @ JanimeS

설희 5

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